15

Domestic Girlfriend

KEI SASUGA

DOME×GIRL

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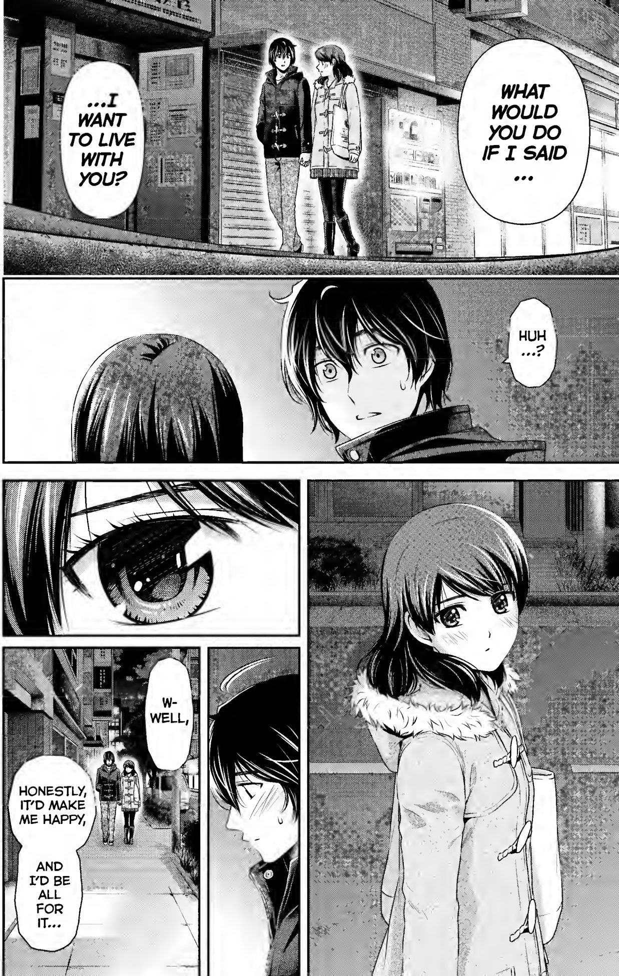
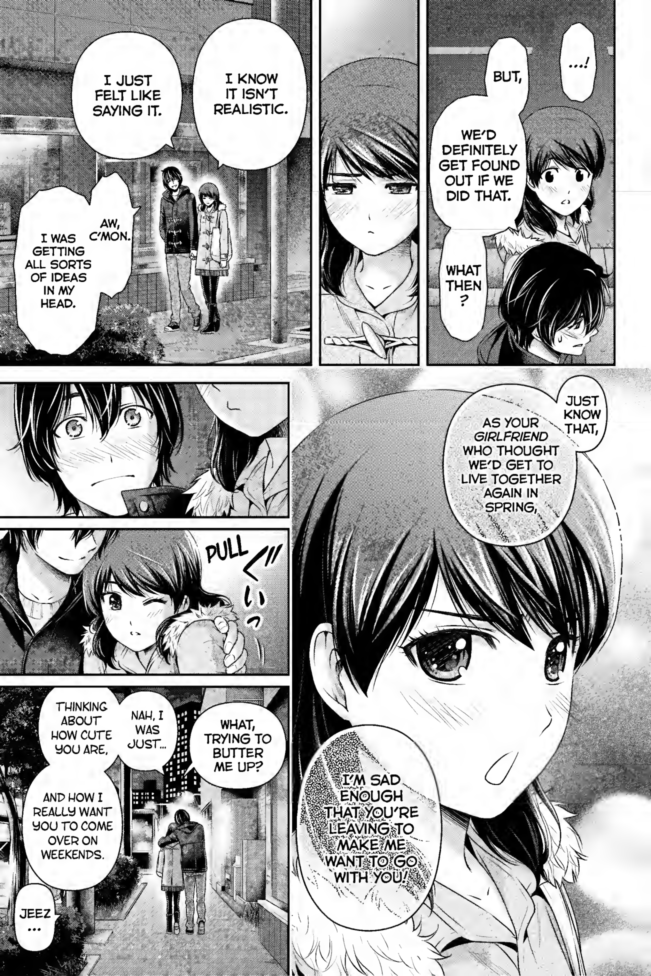
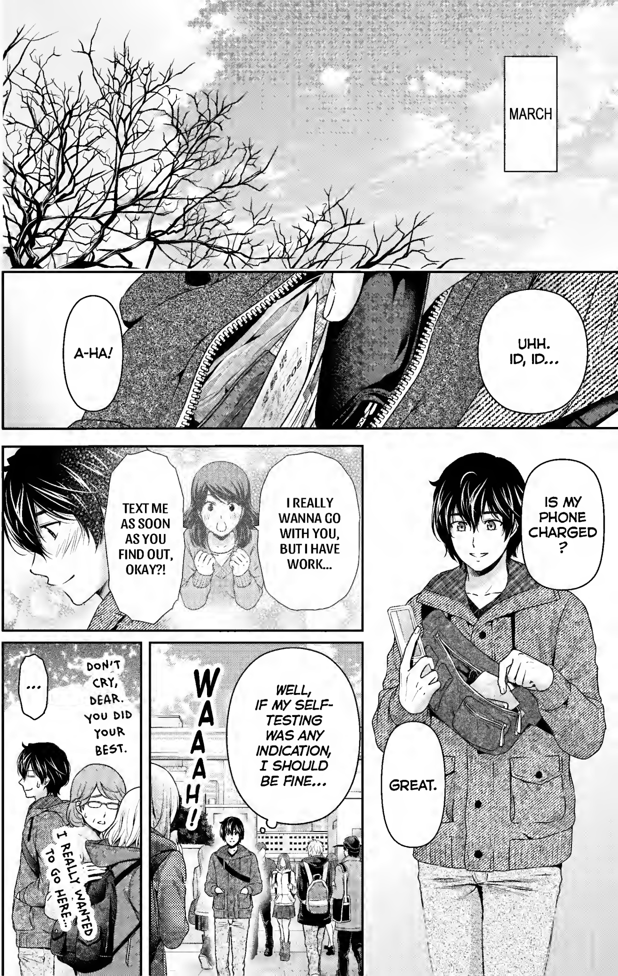
15 CONTENTS

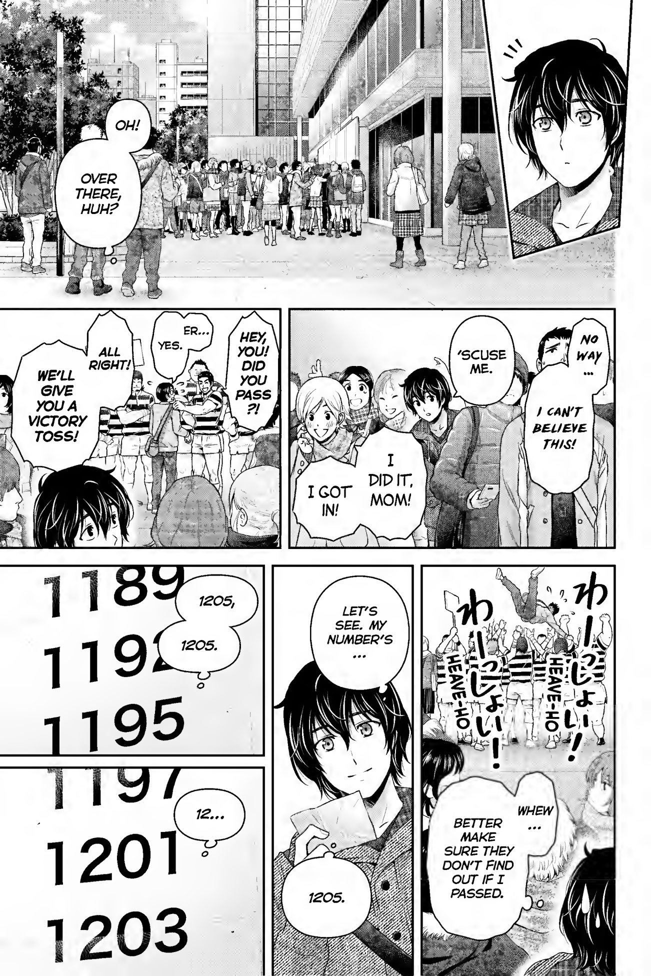
CH.135	CHALLENGE RESULTS	3
CH.136	GRADUATION	19
CH.137	BIRTH OF A RELATIONSHIP	35
CH.138	LEAVING THE NEST	53
CH.139	ROLLERCOASTER NEW LIFE	69
CH.140	JOB HUNTING	85
CH.141	AS AN OLDER SISTER?	103
CH.142	FIRST JOB	121
CH.143	MONEY AND GREED	139
CH.144	TRUE FEELINGS OVERFLOW	157

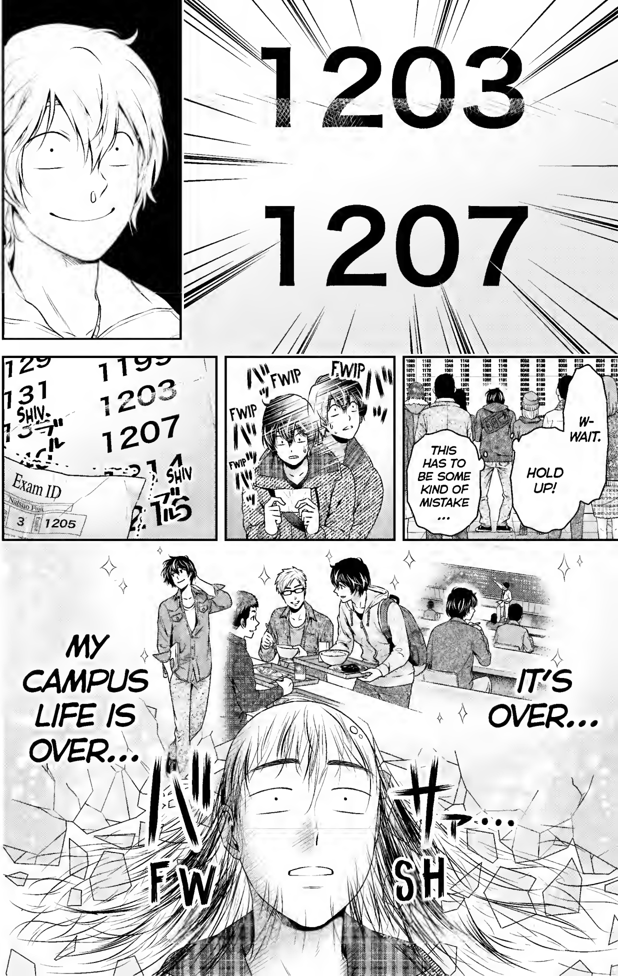
CHAPTER 135: CHALLENGE RESULTS

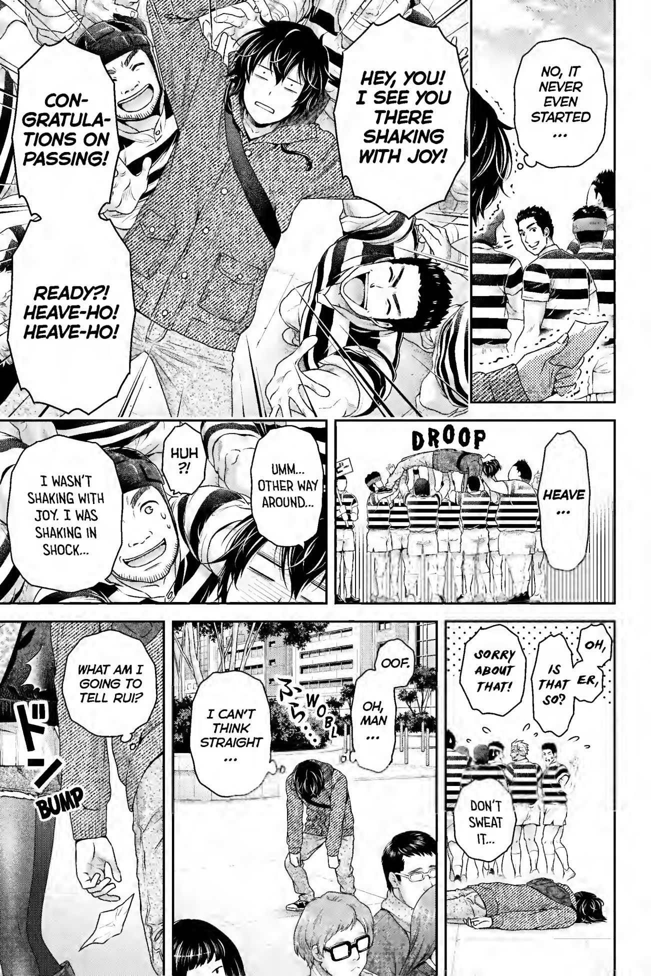

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I SAID ...
...I WANT TO LIVE WITH YOU?
HUH ...?
W- WELL,
HONESTLY, IT'D MAKE ME HAPPY,
AND I'D BE ALL FOR IT...

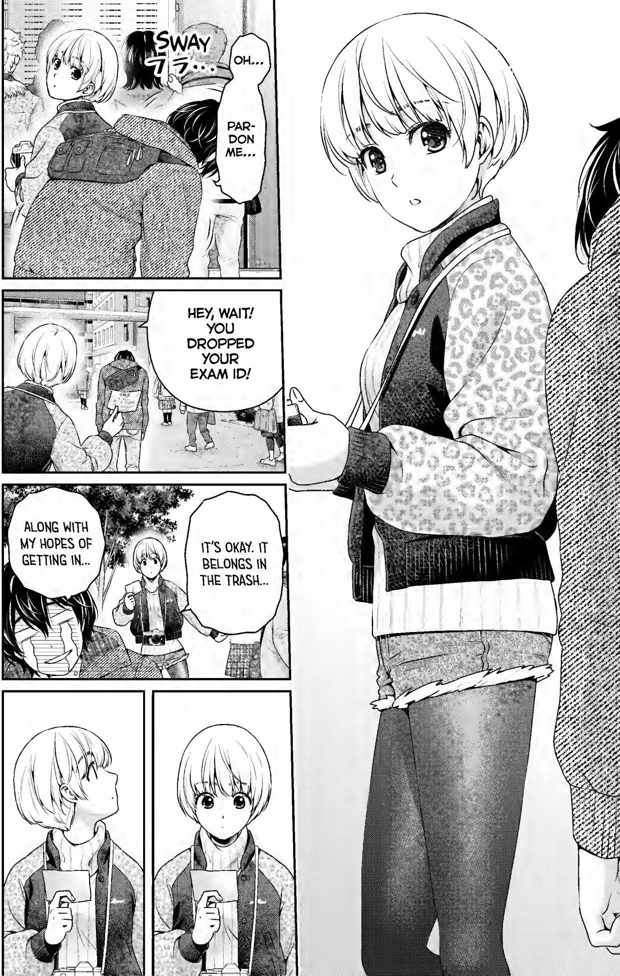

...!
BUT,
WE'D DEFINITELY GET FOUND OUT IF WE DID THAT.
WHAT THEN?
I KNOW IT ISN'T REALISTIC.
I JUST FELT LIKE SAYING IT.
AW, C'MON.
I WAS GETTING ALL SORTS OF IDEAS IN MY HEAD.
JUST KNOW THAT,
AS YOUR *GIRLFRIEND* WHO THOUGHT WE'D GET TO LIVE TOGETHER AGAIN IN SPRING,
I'M SAD ENOUGH THAT YOU'RE LEAVING TO MAKE ME WANT TO GO WITH YOU!
PULL ぐいっ
WHAT, TRYING TO BUTTER ME UP?
NAH, I WAS JUST...
THINKING ABOUT HOW CUTE YOU ARE,
AND HOW I REALLY WANT YOU TO COME OVER ON WEEKENDS.
JEEZ...

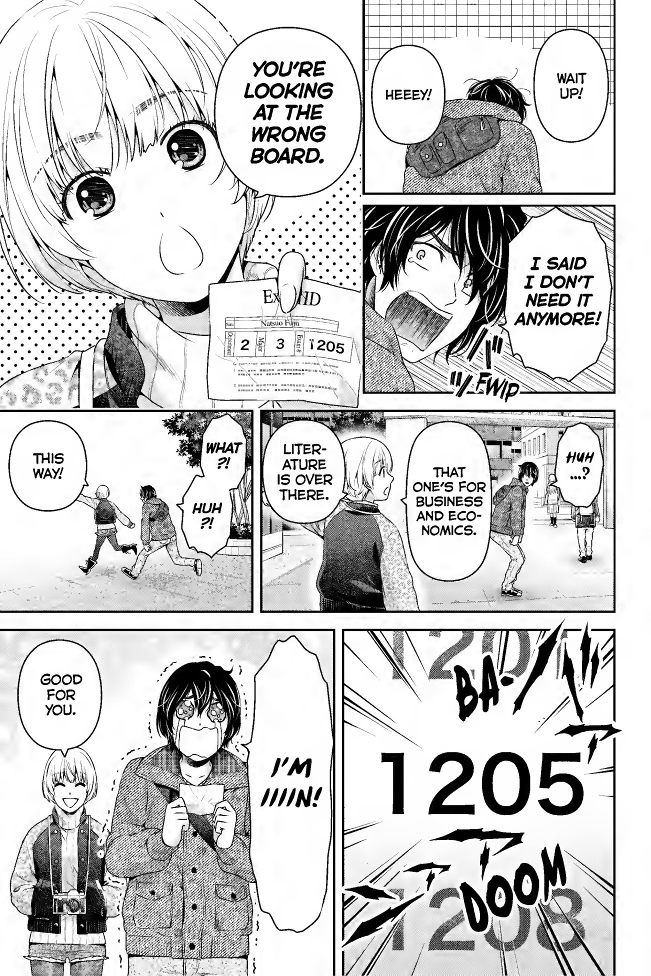

MARCH
UHH. ID, ID...
A-HA!
IS MY PHONE CHARGED?
GREAT.
I REALLY WANNA GO WITH YOU, BUT I HAVE WORK...
TEXT ME AS SOON AS YOU FIND OUT, OKAY?!
WELL, IF MY SELF-TESTING WAS ANY INDICATION, I SHOULD BE FINE...
WAAAH!
DON'T CRY, DEAR. YOU DID YOUR BEST.
...
I REALLY WANTED TO GO HERE...

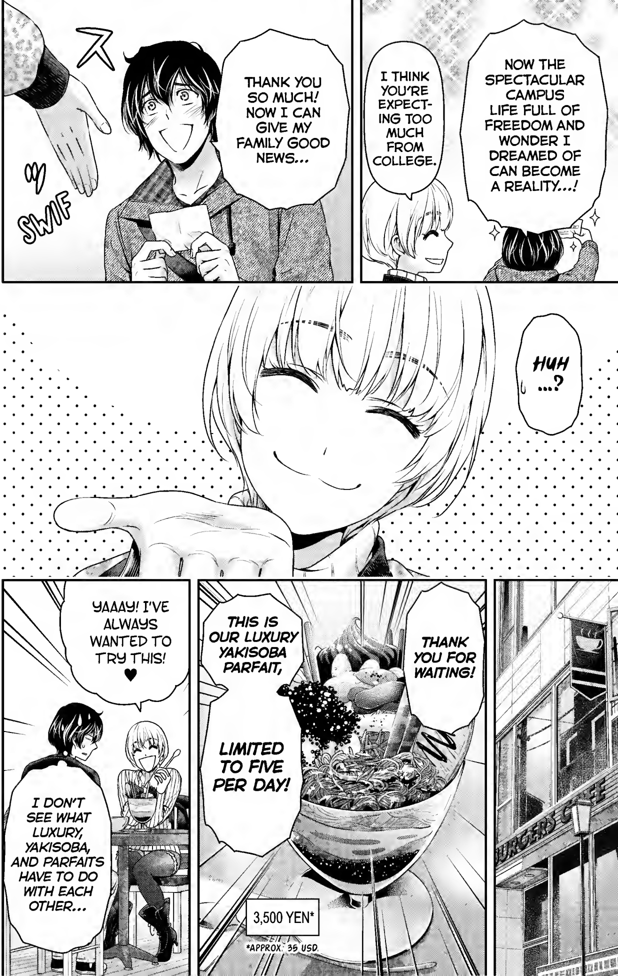

OH!
OVER THERE, HUH?
NO WAY ...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
'SCUSE ME.
I DID IT, MOM!
I GOT IN!
HEY, YOU! DID YOU PASS?!
ER... YES.
ALL RIGHT!
WE'LL GIVE YOU A VICTORY TOSS!
わーっしょい!
HEAVE-HO
わーっしょい!
HEAVE-HO
WHEW ...
BETTER MAKE SURE THEY DON'T FIND OUT IF I PASSED.
LET'S SEE. MY NUMBER'S ...
1205.
1189
1192
1195
1205,
1205.
1197
12...
1201
1203

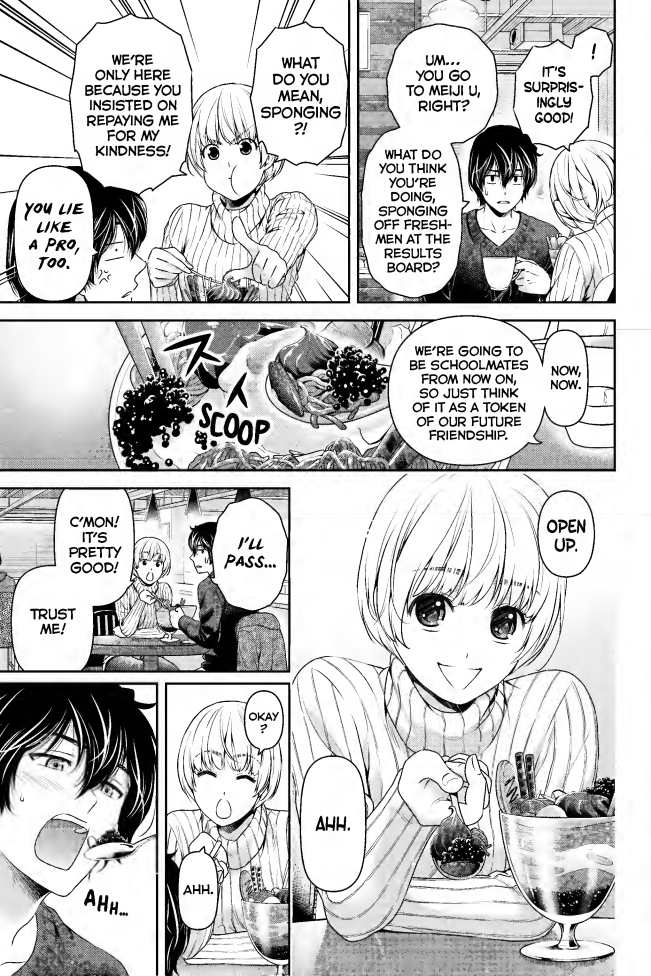

1203
1207
W-WAIT.
HOLD UP!
THIS HAS TO BE SOME KIND OF MISTAKE...
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
1195
1203
1207
SHIV.
SHIV
Exam ID
Natsuo Fujii
3
1205
IT'S OVER...
MY CAMPUS LIFE IS OVER...
SH
FW

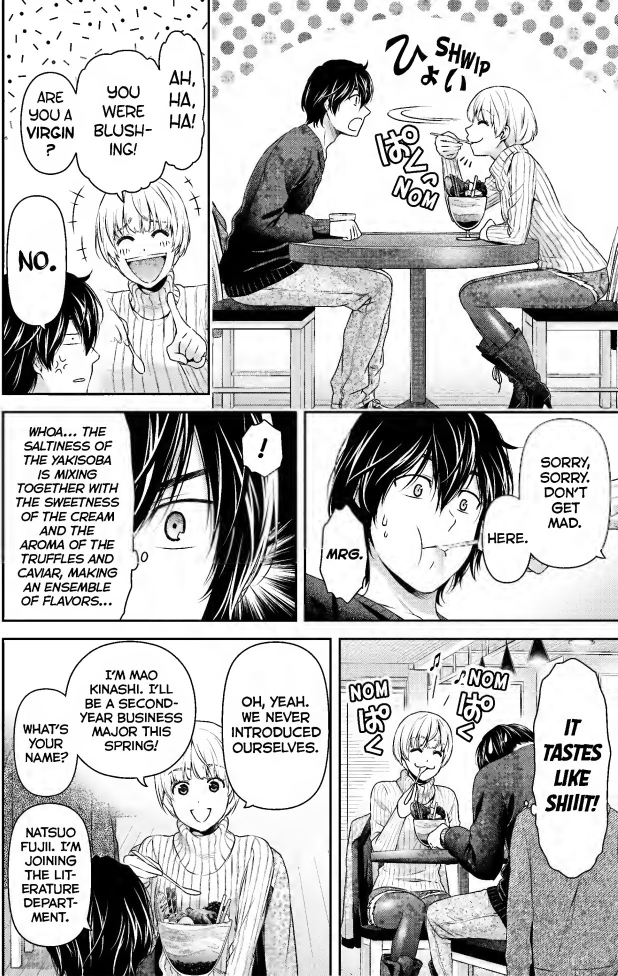

NO, IT NEVER EVEN STARTED…
HEY, YOU! I SEE YOU THERE SHAKING WITH JOY!
CON-GRATULATIONS ON PASSING!
READY?! HEAVE-HO! HEAVE-HO!
DROOP
HEAVE…
UMM… OTHER WAY AROUND…
HUH?!
I WASN'T SHAKING WITH JOY. I WAS SHAKING IN SHOCK…
OH, ER,
IS THAT SO?
SORRY ABOUT THAT!
DON'T SWEAT IT…
OOF.
OH, MAN…
ふら
WOBBL
I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT…
WHAT AM I GOING TO TELL RUI?
ドーン
BUMP

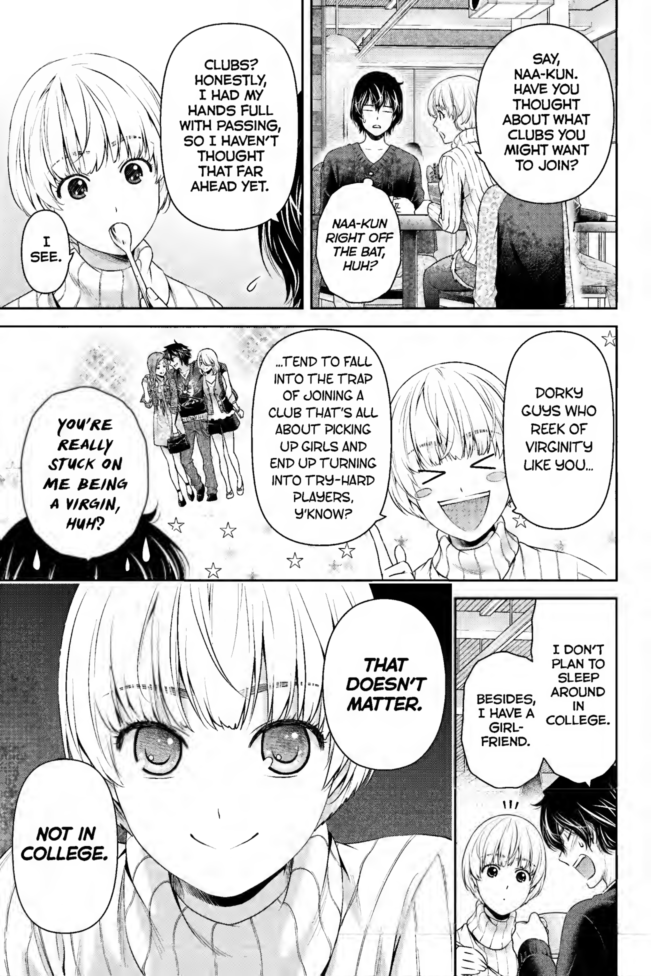

SWAY フラ…
OH…
PAR-DON ME…
HEY, WAIT! YOU DROPPED YOUR EXAM ID!
IT'S OKAY. IT BELONGS IN THE TRASH…
ALONG WITH MY HOPES OF GETTING IN…

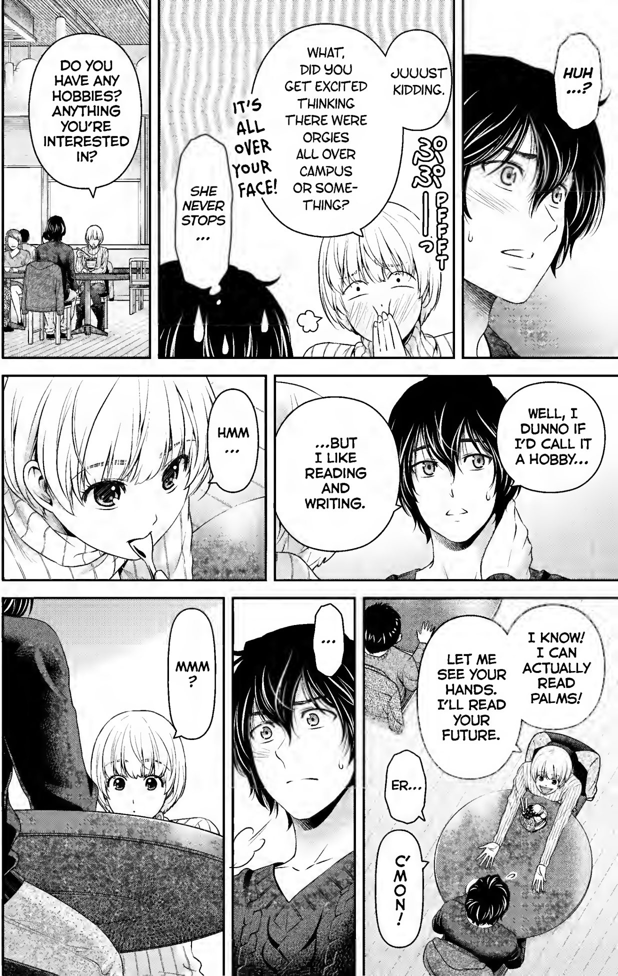

WAIT UP!
HEEEY!
I SAID I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE!
FWIP
YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE WRONG BOARD.
EXAM ID
Name Natsuo Fujii
Department 2
Major 3
Exam # 1205
HUH ...?
THAT ONE'S FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS.
LITERATURE IS OVER THERE.
WHAT?!
HUH ?!
THIS WAY!
BA-
1205
DOOM
1208
I'M IIIIN!
GOOD FOR YOU.

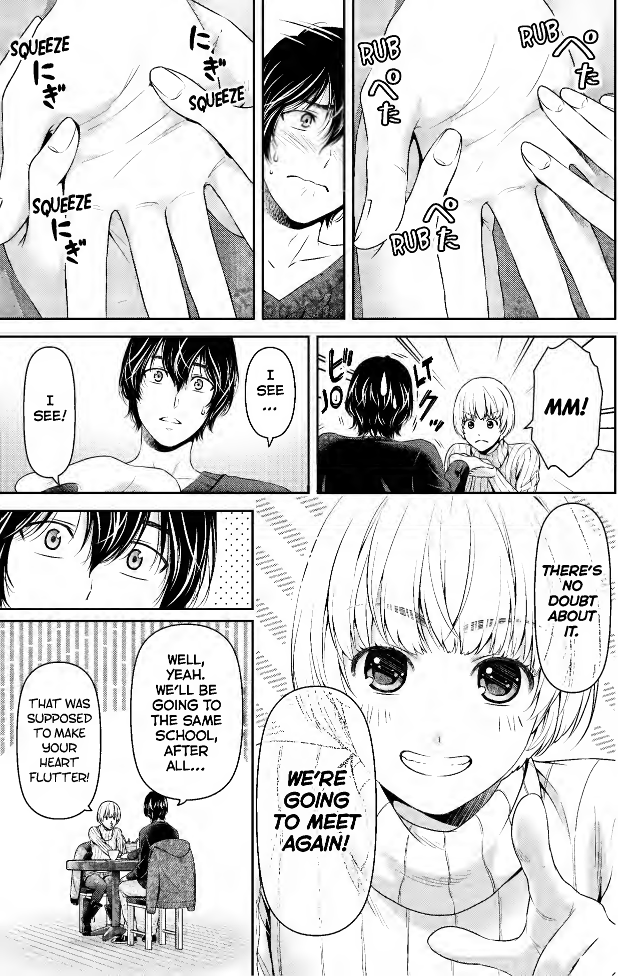

NOW THE SPECTACULAR CAMPUS LIFE FULL OF FREEDOM AND WONDER I DREAMED OF CAN BECOME A REALITY…!
I THINK YOU'RE EXPECTING TOO MUCH FROM COLLEGE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH! NOW I CAN GIVE MY FAMILY GOOD NEWS…
ス
ッ
SWIF
HUH …?
THANK YOU FOR WAITING!
THIS IS OUR LUXURY YAKISOBA PARFAIT,
LIMITED TO FIVE PER DAY!
3,500 YEN*
*APPROX. 35 USD.
YAAAY! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY THIS! ♥
I DON'T SEE WHAT LUXURY, YAKISOBA, AND PARFAITS HAVE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER…

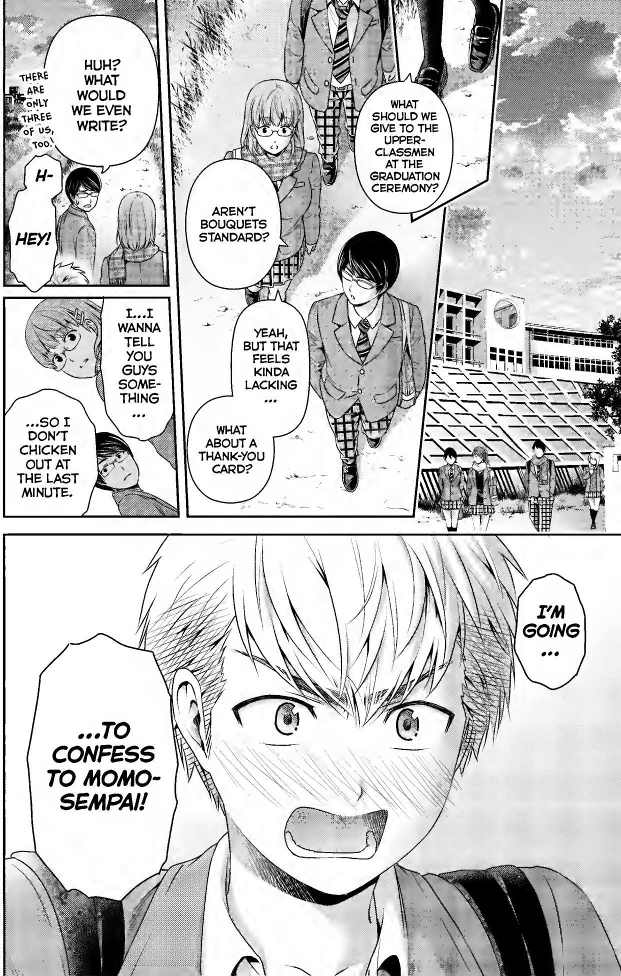

!
IT'S SURPRISINGLY GOOD!
UM... YOU GO TO MEIJI U, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, SPONGING OFF FRESHMEN AT THE RESULTS BOARD?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SPONGING?!
WE'RE ONLY HERE BECAUSE YOU INSISTED ON REPAYING ME FOR MY KINDNESS!
YOU LIE LIKE A PRO, TOO.
NOW, NOW.
WE'RE GOING TO BE SCHOOLMATES FROM NOW ON, SO JUST THINK OF IT AS A TOKEN OF OUR FUTURE FRIENDSHIP.
スッ
SCOOP
C'MON! IT'S PRETTY GOOD!
TRUST ME!
I'LL PASS...
OPEN UP.
OKAY?
AHH.
AHH.
AHH...


ひょい SHWIP
ぱく NOM
AH, HA, HA!
YOU WERE BLUSHING!
ARE YOU A VIRGIN?
NO.
SORRY, SORRY. DON'T GET MAD.
HERE.
MRG.
!
WHOA... THE SALTINESS OF THE YAKISOBA IS MIXING TOGETHER WITH THE SWEETNESS OF THE CREAM AND THE AROMA OF THE TRUFFLES AND CAVIAR, MAKING AN ENSEMBLE OF FLAVORS...
♪ NOM ぱく
NOM ぱく
IT TASTES LIKE SHIIIT!
OH, YEAH. WE NEVER INTRODUCED OURSELVES.
I'M MAO KINASHI. I'LL BE A SECOND-YEAR BUSINESS MAJOR THIS SPRING!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
NATSUO FUJII. I'M JOINING THE LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

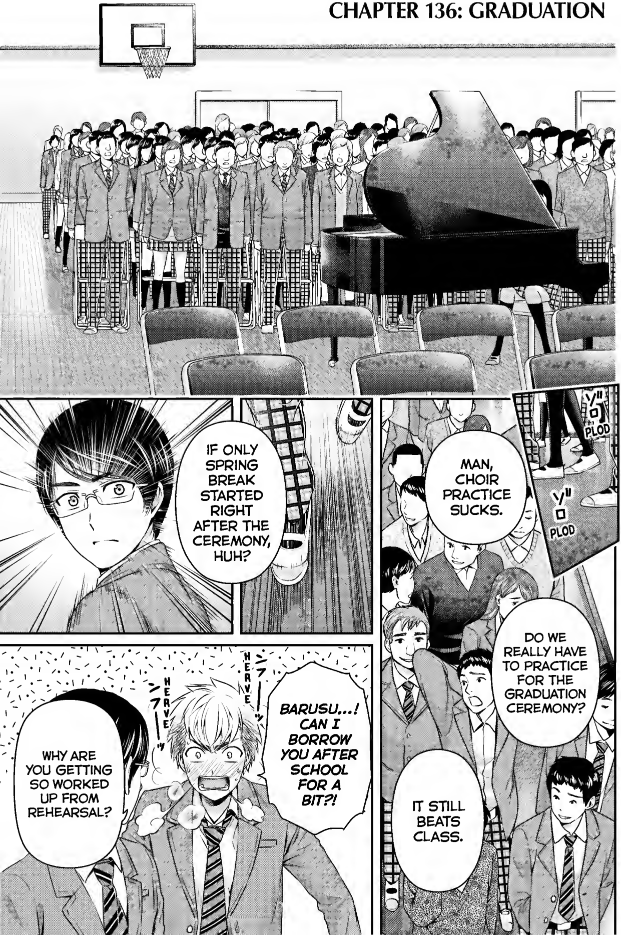

SAY, NAA-KUN. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT CLUBS YOU MIGHT WANT TO JOIN?
NAA-KUN RIGHT OFF THE BAT, HUH?
CLUBS? HONESTLY, I HAD MY HANDS FULL WITH PASSING, SO I HAVEN'T THOUGHT THAT FAR AHEAD YET.
I SEE.
DORKY GUYS WHO REEK OF VIRGINITY LIKE YOU...
...TEND TO FALL INTO THE TRAP OF JOINING A CLUB THAT'S ALL ABOUT PICKING UP GIRLS AND END UP TURNING INTO TRY-HARD PLAYERS, Y'KNOW?
YOU'RE REALLY STUCK ON ME BEING A VIRGIN, HUH?
I DON'T PLAN TO SLEEP AROUND IN COLLEGE.
BESIDES, I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
NOT IN COLLEGE.

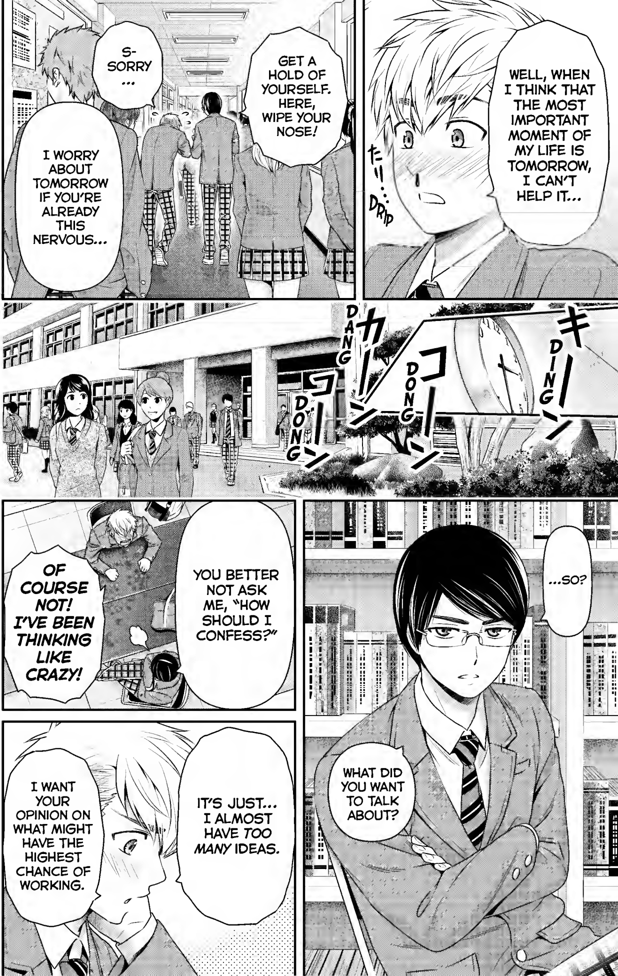

HUH ...?
JUUUST KIDDING.
WHAT, DID YOU GET EXCITED THINKING THERE WERE ORGIES ALL OVER CAMPUS OR SOMETHING?
IT'S ALL OVER YOUR FACE!
ぷぷーっ PFFFT
SHE NEVER STOPS ...
DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES? ANYTHING YOU'RE INTERESTED IN?
WELL, I DUNNO IF I'D CALL IT A HOBBY...
...BUT I LIKE READING AND WRITING.
HMM ...
I KNOW! I CAN ACTUALLY READ PALMS!
LET ME SEE YOUR HANDS. I'LL READ YOUR FUTURE.
ER...
C'MON!
...
MMM ?

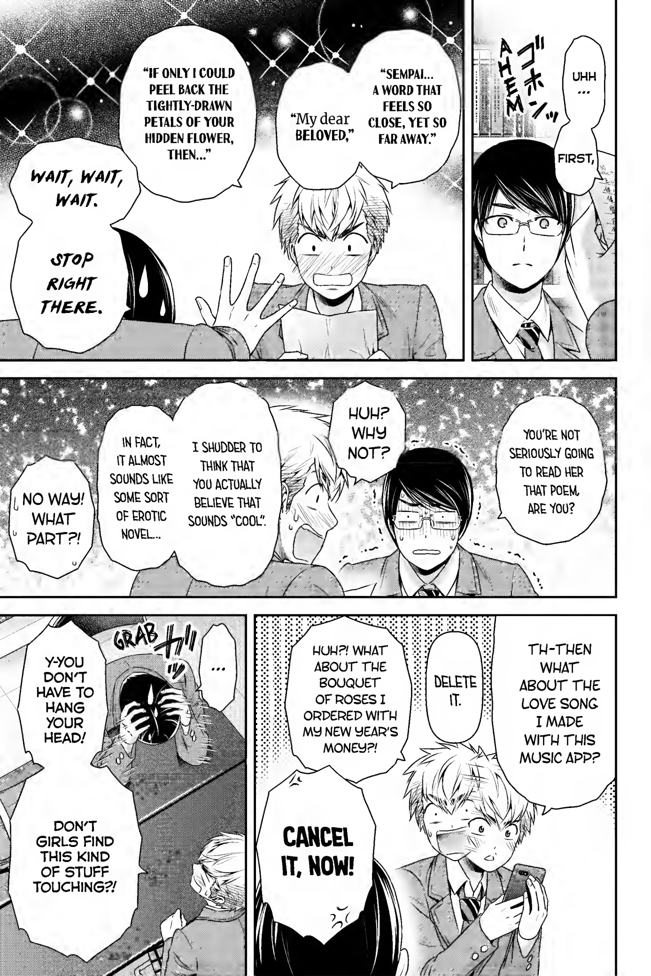

RUB ぺた
RUB ぺた
RUB ぺた
SQUEEZE にぎ
SQUEEZE にぎ
SQUEEZE にぎ
MM!
JOLT ビクッ
I SEE…
I SEE!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
WE'RE GOING TO MEET AGAIN!
WELL, YEAH. WE'LL BE GOING TO THE SAME SCHOOL, AFTER ALL…
THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOUR HEART FLUTTER!

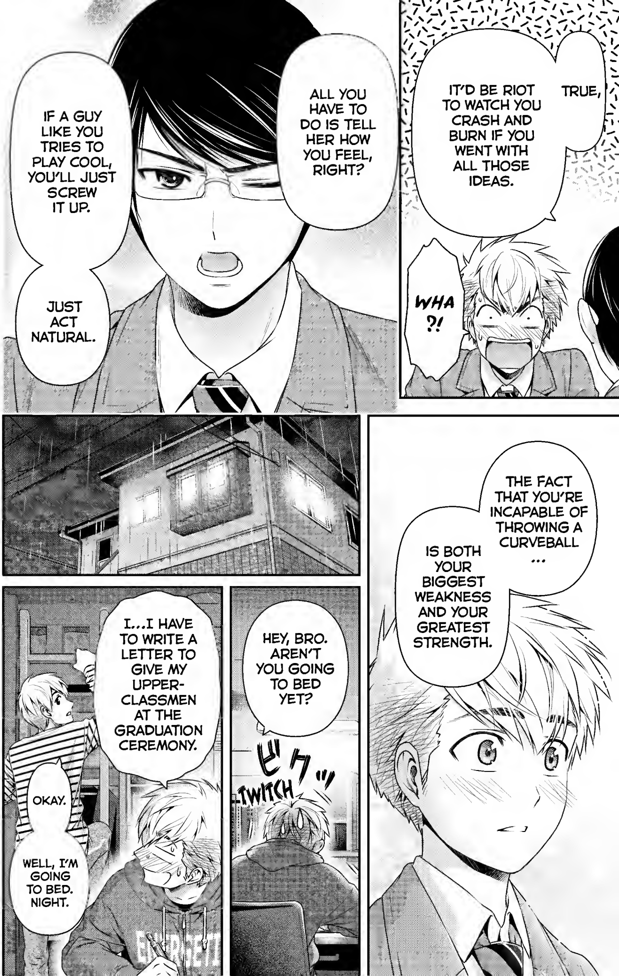

WHAT SHOULD WE GIVE TO THE UPPERCLASSMEN AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY?
AREN'T BOUQUETS STANDARD?
YEAH, BUT THAT FEELS KINDA LACKING...
WHAT ABOUT A THANK-YOU CARD?
HUH? WHAT WOULD WE EVEN WRITE?
THERE ARE ONLY THREE OF US, TOO.
H-
HEY!
I...I WANNA TELL YOU GUYS SOMETHING...
...SO I DON'T CHICKEN OUT AT THE LAST MINUTE.
I'M GOING...
...TO CONFESS TO MOMO-SEMPAI!

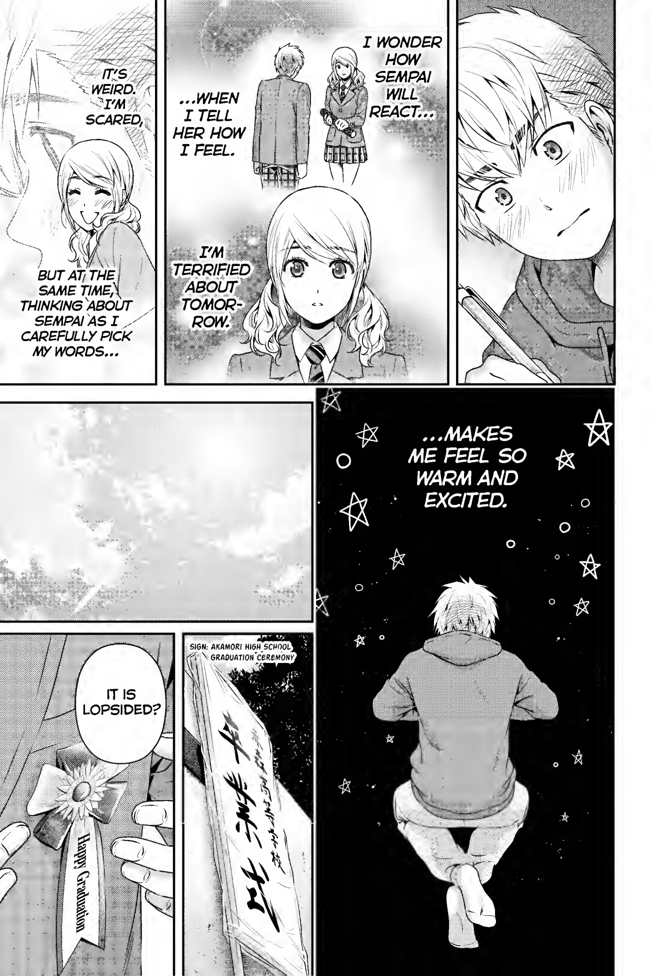
CHAPTER 136: GRADUATION

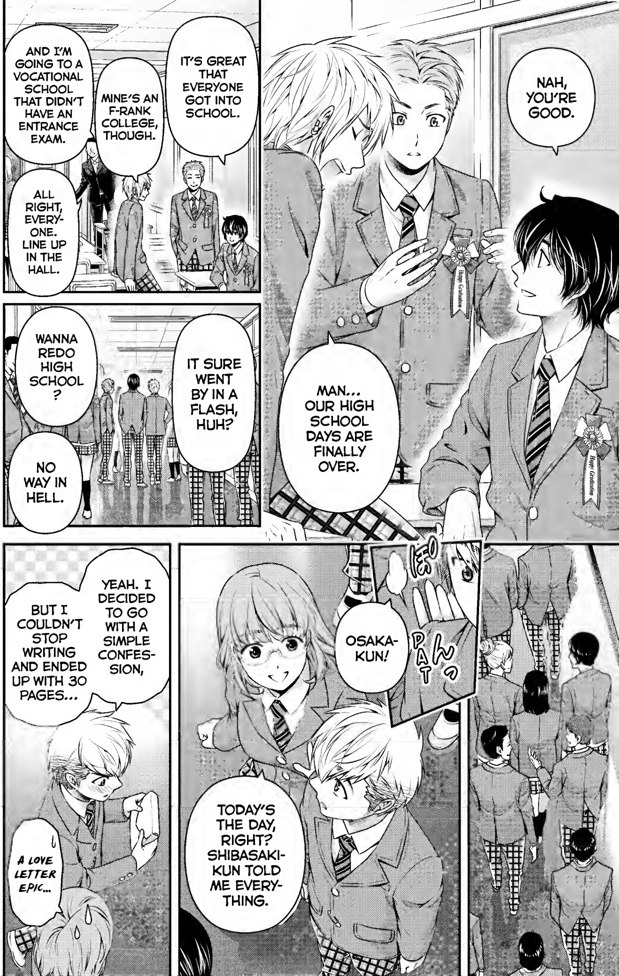

ゾロ PLOD
ゾロ PLOD
MAN, CHOIR PRACTICE SUCKS.
DO WE REALLY HAVE TO PRACTICE FOR THE GRADUATION CEREMONY?
IT STILL BEATS CLASS.
IF ONLY SPRING BREAK STARTED RIGHT AFTER THE CEREMONY, HUH?
HERVE
HERVE
BARUSU...! CAN I BORROW YOU AFTER SCHOOL FOR A BIT?!
WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP FROM REHEARSAL?

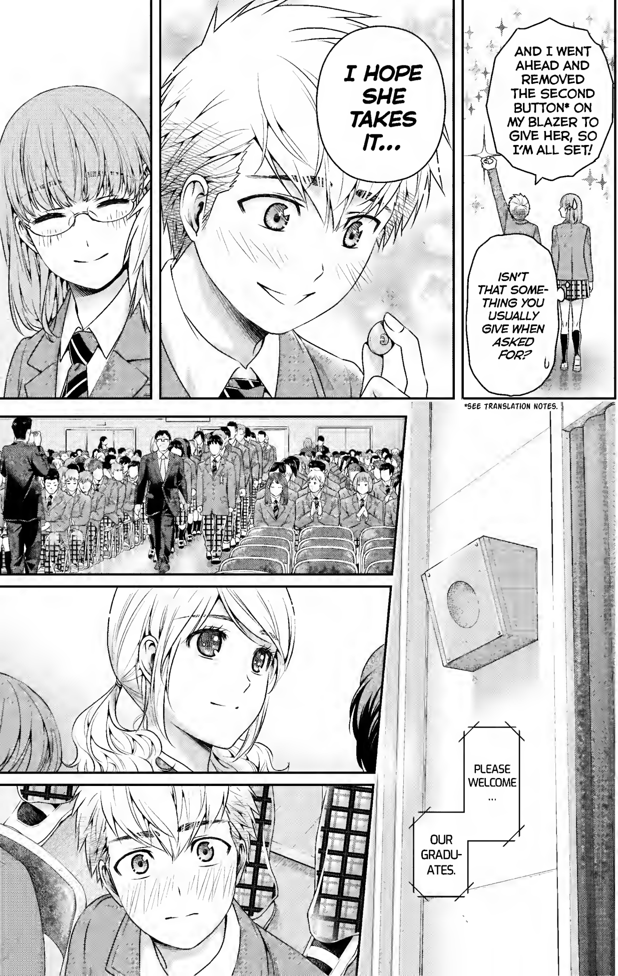

WELL, WHEN I THINK THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT MOMENT OF MY LIFE IS TOMORROW, I CAN'T HELP IT...
たり…
DRIP
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF. HERE, WIPE YOUR NOSE!
S-SORRY...
I WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW IF YOU'RE ALREADY THIS NERVOUS...
キーン
DING
コーン
DONG
カーン
DANG
コーン
DONG
...SO?
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
YOU BETTER NOT ASK ME, "HOW SHOULD I CONFESS?"
OF COURSE NOT! I'VE BEEN THINKING LIKE CRAZY!
IT'S JUST... I ALMOST HAVE *TOO MANY* IDEAS.
I WANT YOUR OPINION ON WHAT MIGHT HAVE THE HIGHEST CHANCE OF WORKING.


UHH …
AHEM ゴホンッ
FIRST,
"SEMPAI… A WORD THAT FEELS SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR AWAY."
"My dear BELOVED,"
"IF ONLY I COULD PEEL BACK THE TIGHTLY-DRAWN PETALS OF YOUR HIDDEN FLOWER, THEN…"
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT.
STOP RIGHT THERE.
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUSLY GOING TO READ HER THAT POEM, ARE YOU?
HUH? WHY NOT?
I SHUDDER TO THINK THAT YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT SOUNDS "COOL".
IN FACT, IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE SOME SORT OF EROTIC NOVEL…
NO WAY! WHAT PART?!
TH-THEN WHAT ABOUT THE LOVE SONG I MADE WITH THIS MUSIC APP?
DELETE IT.
HUH?! WHAT ABOUT THE BOUQUET OF ROSES I ORDERED WITH MY NEW YEAR'S MONEY?!
CANCEL IT, NOW!
…
GRAB ガバッ
Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO HANG YOUR HEAD!
DON'T GIRLS FIND THIS KIND OF STUFF TOUCHING?!

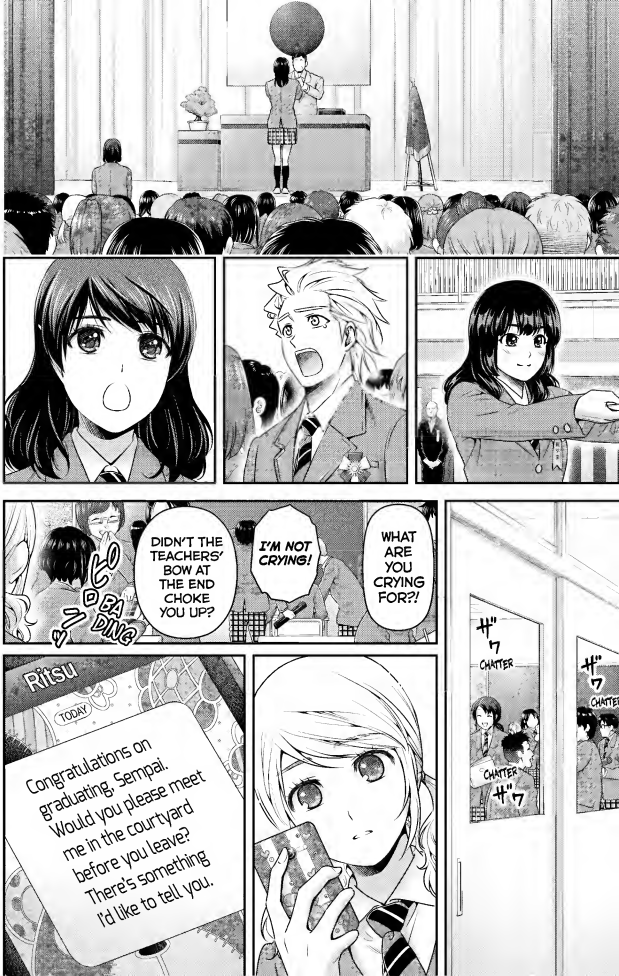

TRUE,
IT'D BE RIOT TO WATCH YOU CRASH AND BURN IF YOU WENT WITH ALL THOSE IDEAS.
WHA?!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TELL HER HOW YOU FEEL, RIGHT?
IF A GUY LIKE YOU TRIES TO PLAY COOL, YOU'LL JUST SCREW IT UP.
JUST ACT NATURAL.
THE FACT THAT YOU'RE INCAPABLE OF THROWING A CURVEBALL...
IS BOTH YOUR BIGGEST WEAKNESS AND YOUR GREATEST STRENGTH.
HEY, BRO. AREN'T YOU GOING TO BED YET?
ビクッ
TWITCH
I...I HAVE TO WRITE A LETTER TO GIVE MY UPPERCLASSMEN AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY.
OKAY.
WELL, I'M GOING TO BED. NIGHT.


I WONDER HOW SEMPAI WILL REACT...
...WHEN I TELL HER HOW I FEEL.
I'M TERRIFIED ABOUT TOMORROW.
IT'S WEIRD. I'M SCARED,
BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THINKING ABOUT SEMPAI AS I CAREFULLY PICK MY WORDS...
...MAKES ME FEEL SO WARM AND EXCITED.
SIGN: AKAMORI HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY
IT IS LOPSIDED?
Happy Graduation

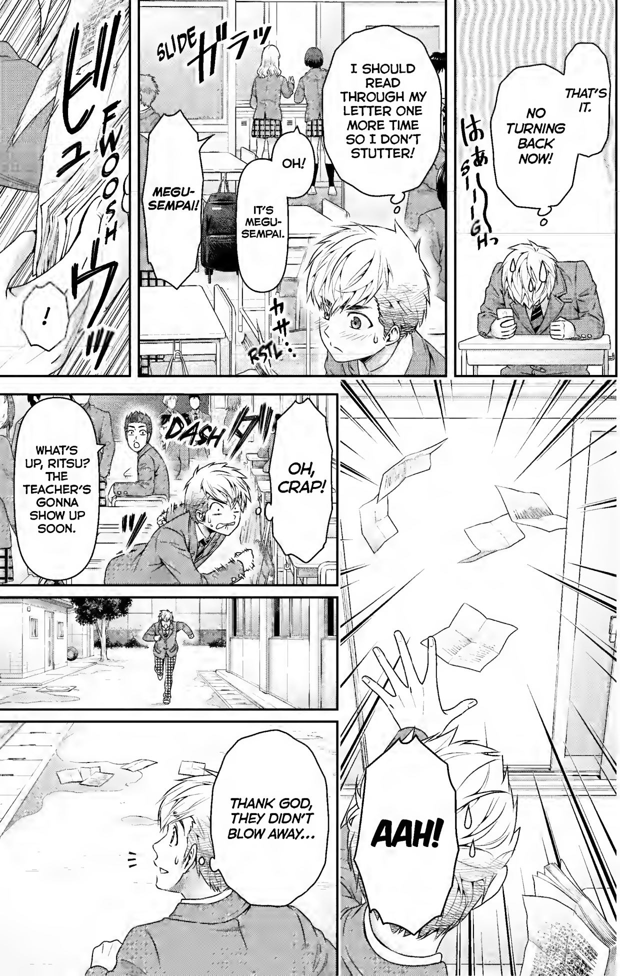

NAH, YOU'RE GOOD.
MAN... OUR HIGH SCHOOL DAYS ARE FINALLY OVER.
IT'S GREAT THAT EVERYONE GOT INTO SCHOOL.
MINE'S AN F-RANK COLLEGE, THOUGH.
AND I'M GOING TO A VOCATIONAL SCHOOL THAT DIDN'T HAVE AN ENTRANCE EXAM.
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE. LINE UP IN THE HALL.
IT SURE WENT BY IN A FLASH, HUH?
WANNA REDO HIGH SCHOOL?
NO WAY IN HELL.
ぽんっ
PAT
OSAKA-KUN!
TODAY'S THE DAY, RIGHT? SHIBASAKI-KUN TOLD ME EVERYTHING.
YEAH. I DECIDED TO GO WITH A SIMPLE CONFESSION,
BUT I COULDN'T STOP WRITING AND ENDED UP WITH 30 PAGES...
A LOVE LETTER EPIC...

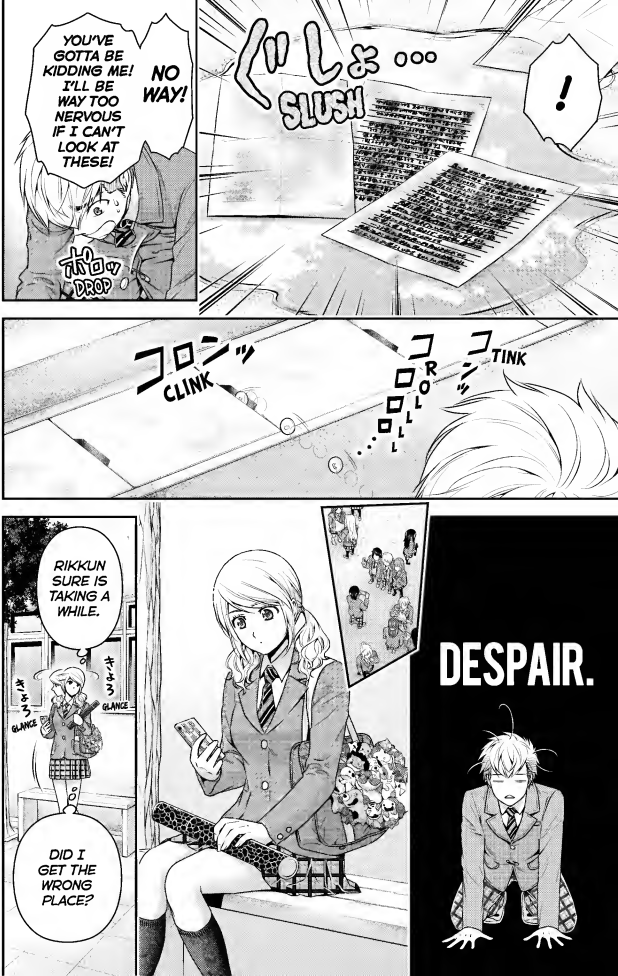

AND I WENT AHEAD AND REMOVED THE SECOND BUTTON* ON MY BLAZER TO GIVE HER, SO I'M ALL SET!
ISN'T THAT SOMETHING YOU USUALLY GIVE WHEN ASKED FOR?
I HOPE SHE TAKES IT...
PLEASE WELCOME...
OUR GRADUATES.

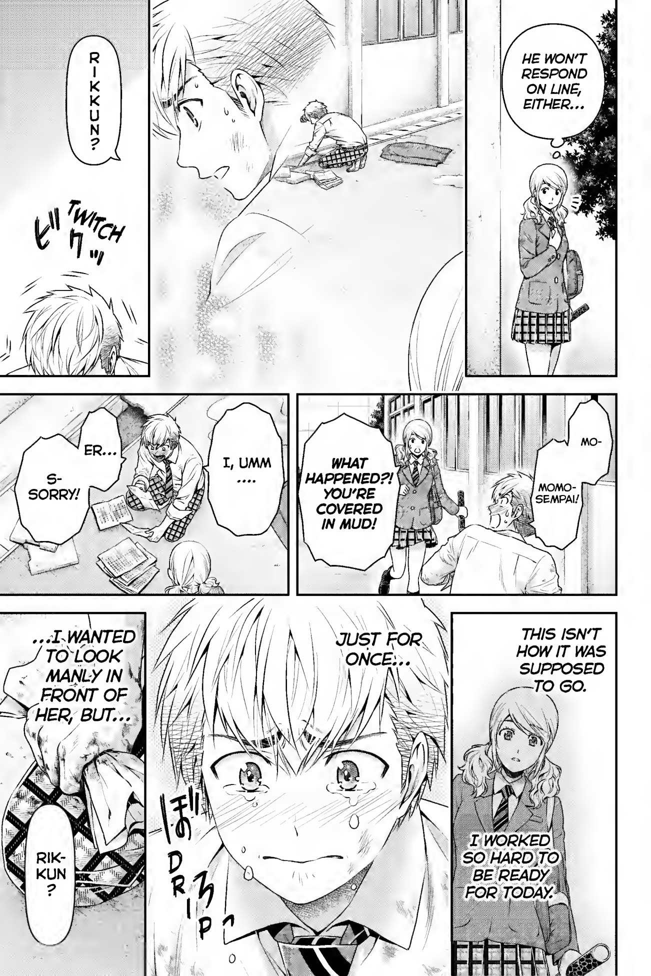
*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES.

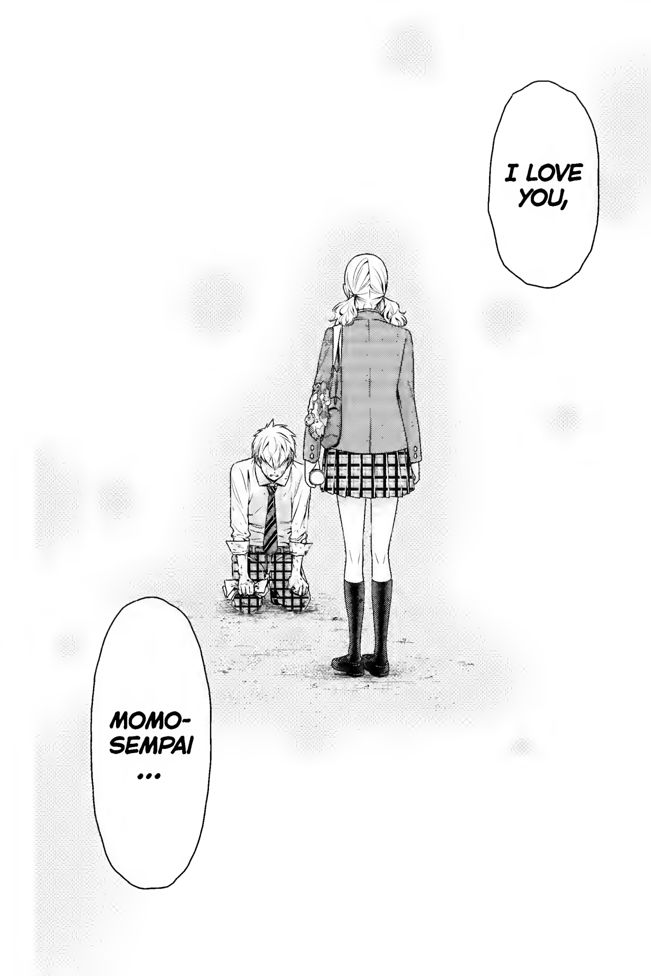

WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR?!
I'M NOT CRYING!
DIDN'T THE TEACHERS' BOW AT THE END CHOKE YOU UP?
BA DING
ザワ
CHATTER
CHATTER
ザワ
ザワ
CHATTER
Ritsu
TODAY

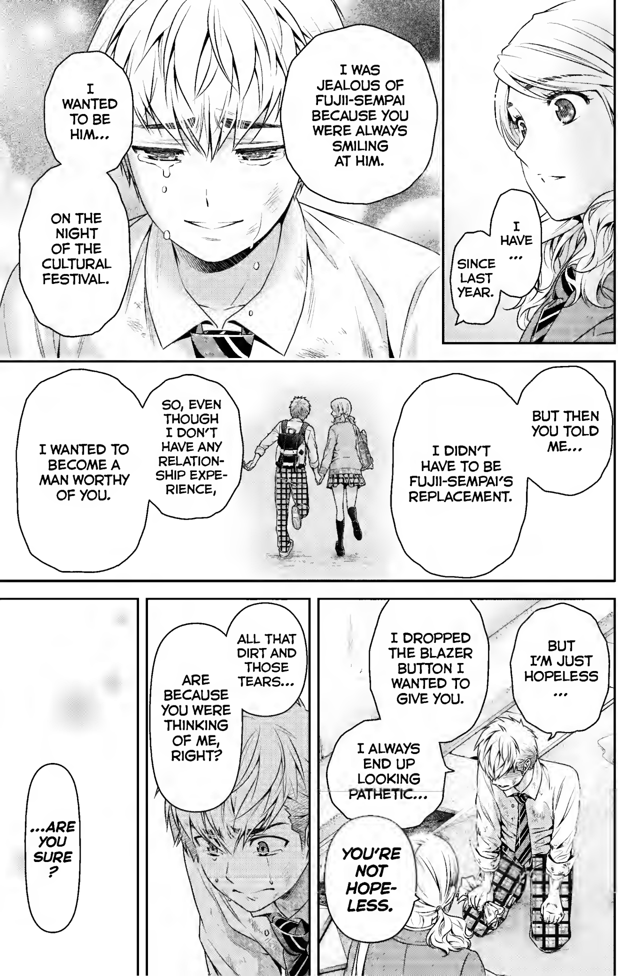
Congratulations on graduating, Sempai. Would you please meet me in the courtyard before you leave? There's something I'd like to tell you.

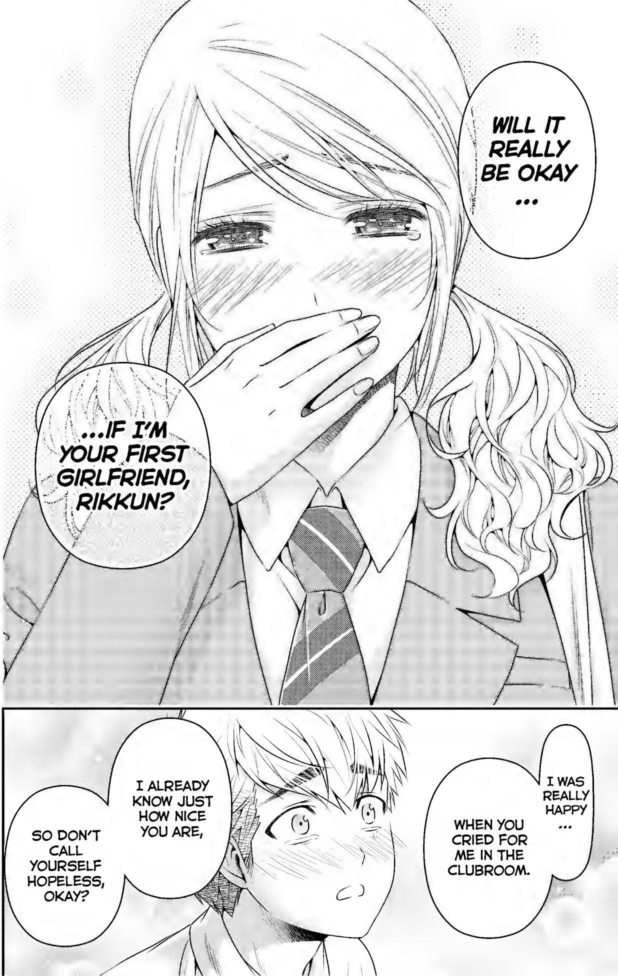

THAT'S IT.
NO TURNING BACK NOW!
はあ
SIIIGH
I SHOULD READ THROUGH MY LETTER ONE MORE TIME SO I DON'T STUTTER!
OH!
IT'S MEGU-SEMPAI.
カサ
RSTL
SLIDE
ガラッ
MEGU-SEMPAI!
ビュウ
FWOOSH
!
AAH!
OH, CRAP!
ダッ
DASH
WHAT'S UP, RITSU? THE TEACHER'S GONNA SHOW UP SOON.
THANK GOD, THEY DIDN'T BLOW AWAY...

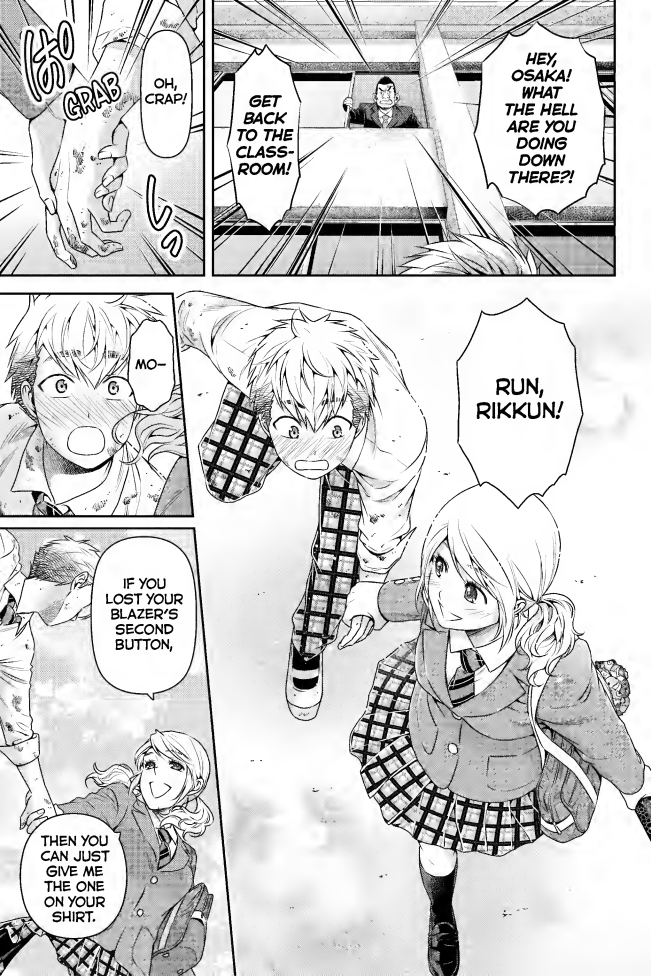

!
ぐしょ…
SLUSH
NO WAY!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME! I'LL BE WAY TOO NERVOUS IF I CAN'T LOOK AT THESE!
ポロッ
DROP
コンッ
TINK
コロロロ…
ROLL
コロンッ
CLINK
DESPAIR.
RIKKUN SURE IS TAKING A WHILE.
きょろ
GLANCE
きょろ
GLANCE
DID I GET THE WRONG PLACE?

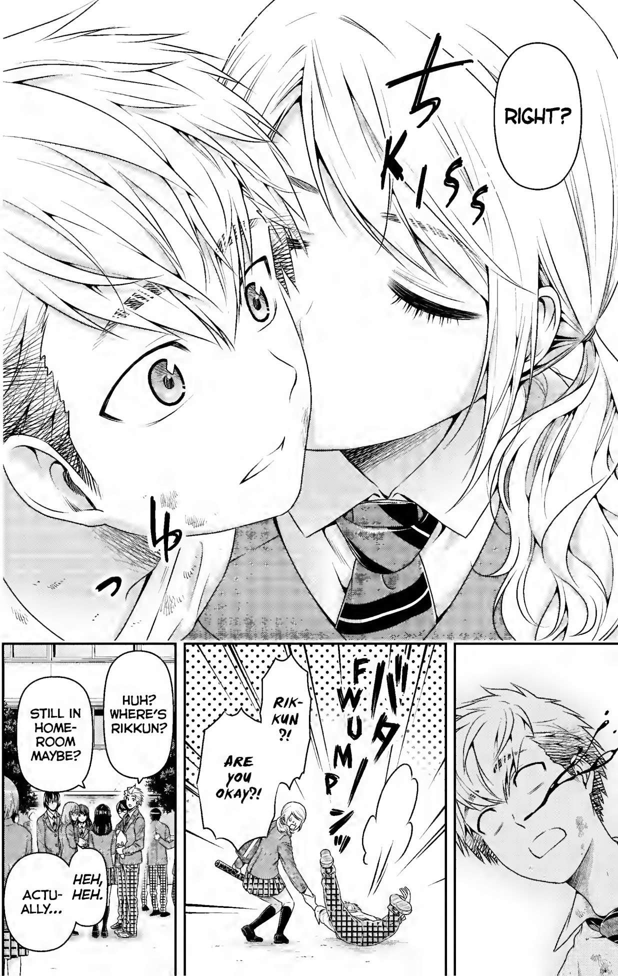

HE WON'T RESPOND ON LINE, EITHER...
RIKKUN?
ビクッ TWITCH
MO-
MOMO-SEMPAI!
WHAT HAPPENED?! YOU'RE COVERED IN MUD!
I, UMM ....
ER...
S-SORRY!
THIS ISN'T HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO GO.
I WORKED SO HARD TO BE READY FOR TODAY.
JUST FOR ONCE...
...I WANTED TO LOOK MANLY IN FRONT OF HER, BUT...
ぽろっ DRIP
RIK-KUN?

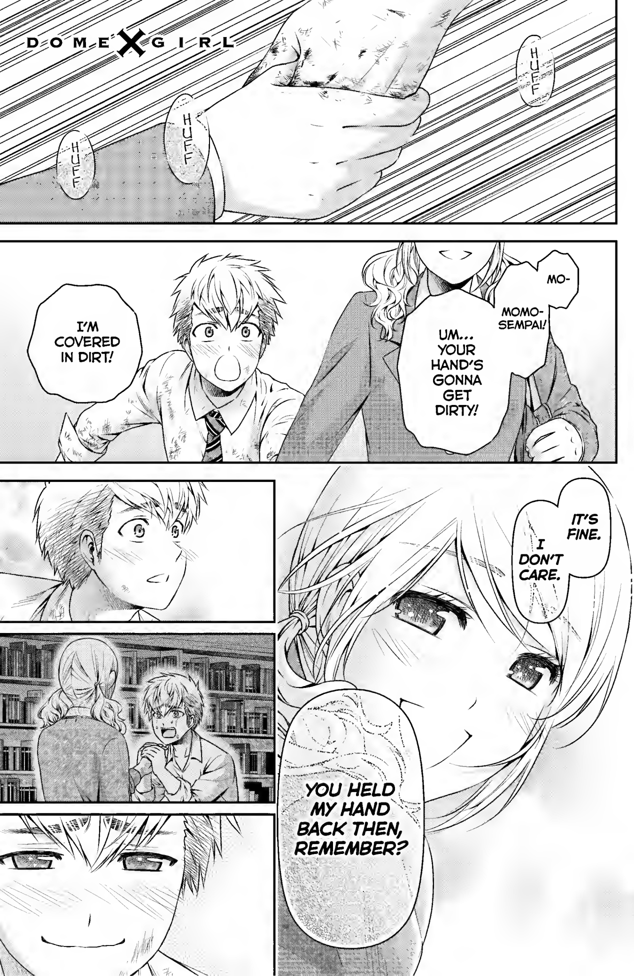

I LOVE YOU,
MOMO-SEMPAI...


I HAVE... SINCE LAST YEAR.
I WAS JEALOUS OF FUJII-SEMPAI BECAUSE YOU WERE ALWAYS SMILING AT HIM.
I WANTED TO BE HIM...
ON THE NIGHT OF THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
BUT THEN YOU TOLD ME...
I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE FUJII-SEMPAI'S REPLACEMENT.
SO, EVEN THOUGH I DON'T HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP EXPERIENCE,
I WANTED TO BECOME A MAN WORTHY OF YOU.
BUT I'M JUST HOPELESS...
I DROPPED THE BLAZER BUTTON I WANTED TO GIVE YOU.
I ALWAYS END UP LOOKING PATHETIC...
YOU'RE NOT HOPELESS.
ALL THAT DIRT AND THOSE TEARS...
ARE BECAUSE YOU WERE THINKING OF ME, RIGHT?
...ARE YOU SURE?

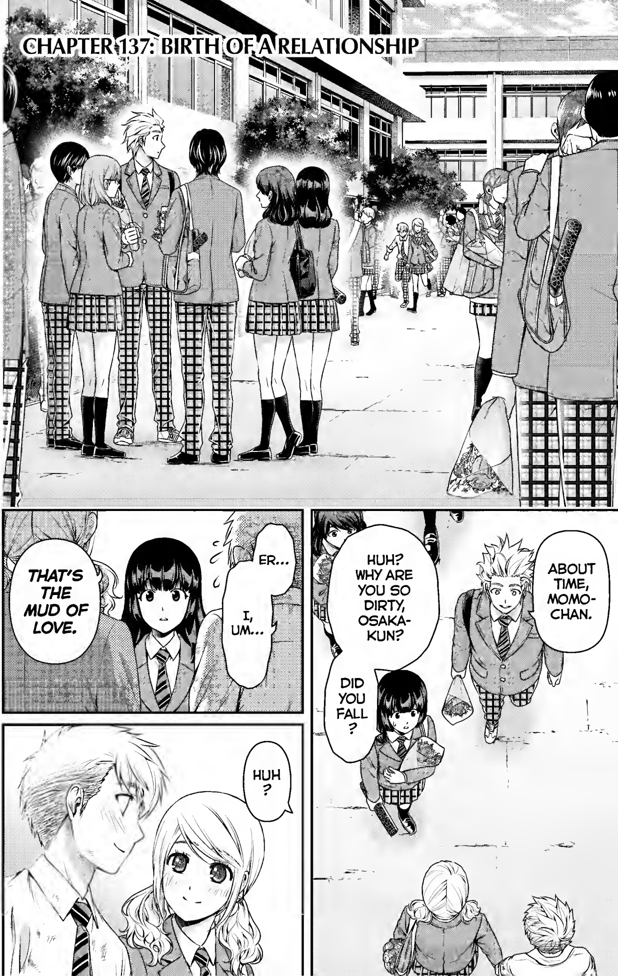

WILL IT REALLY BE OKAY ...
...IF I'M YOUR FIRST GIRLFRIEND, RIKKUN?
I WAS REALLY HAPPY ...
WHEN YOU CRIED FOR ME IN THE CLUBROOM.
I ALREADY KNOW JUST HOW NICE YOU ARE,
SO DON'T CALL YOURSELF HOPELESS, OKAY?

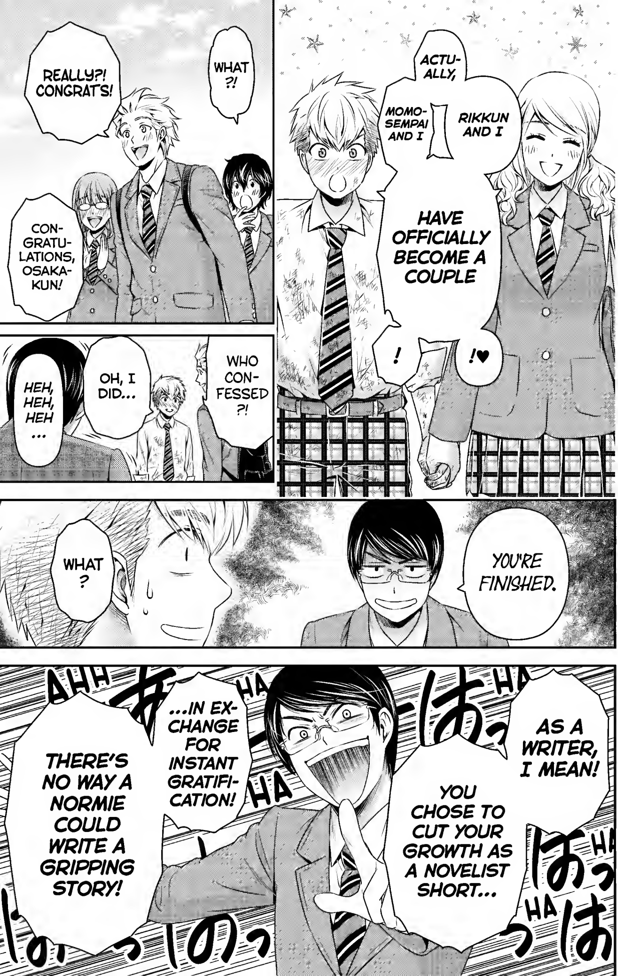

HEY, OSAKA! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE?!
GET BACK TO THE CLASSROOM!
ぱしっ
GRAB
OH, CRAP!
RUN, RIKKUN!
MO–
IF YOU LOST YOUR BLAZER'S SECOND BUTTON,
THEN YOU CAN JUST GIVE ME THE ONE ON YOUR SHIRT.

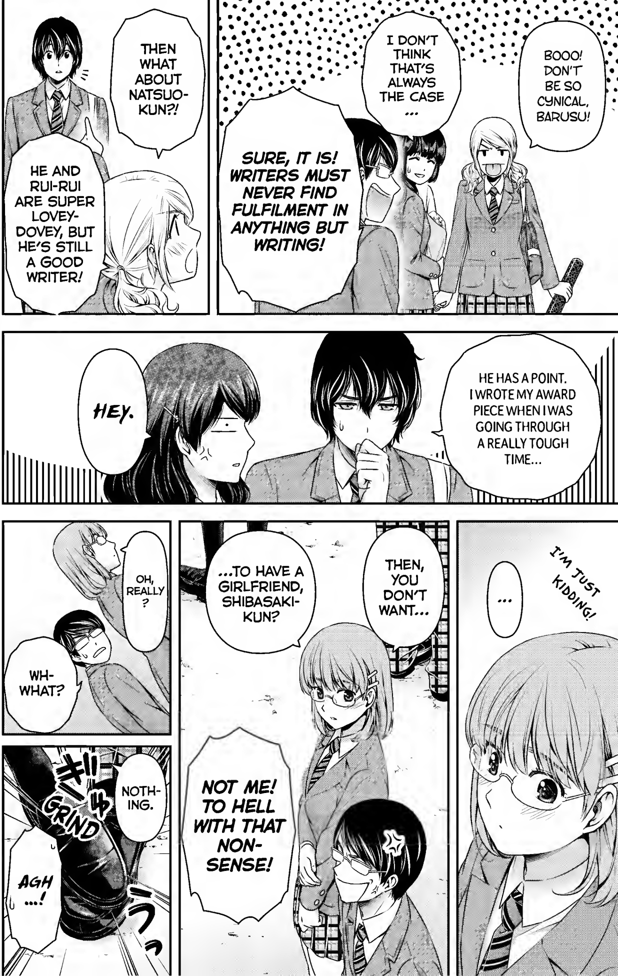

RIGHT?
ち KISS
ゅっ
RIK-KUN?!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
FWUMP
バタッ
HUH? WHERE'S RIKKUN?
STILL IN HOMEROOM MAYBE?
HEH, HEH.
ACTUALLY...

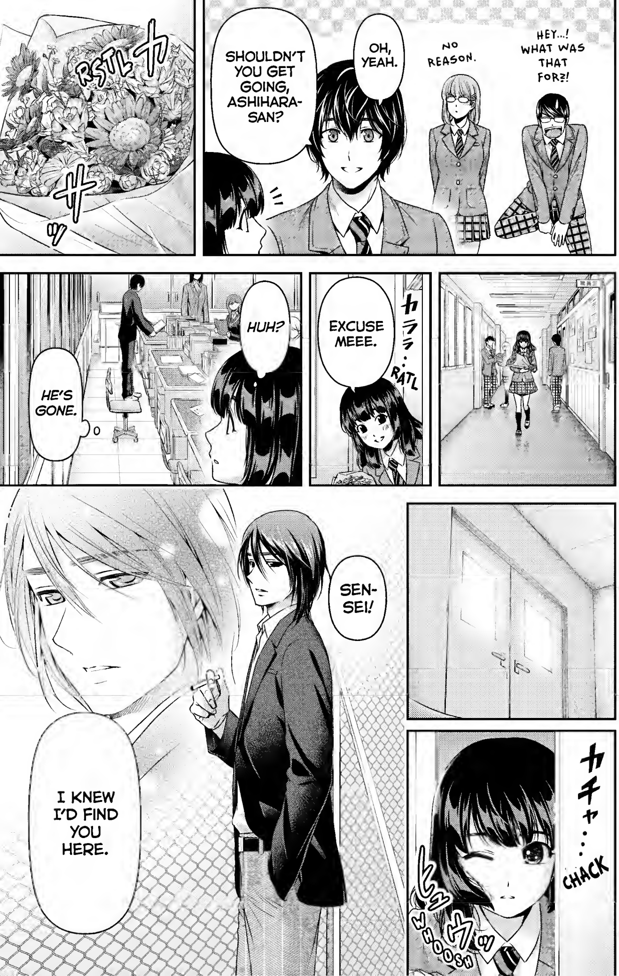

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
MO-
MOMO-SEMPAI!
UM... YOUR HAND'S GONNA GET DIRTY!
I'M COVERED IN DIRT!
IT'S FINE. I DON'T CARE.
YOU HELD MY HAND BACK THEN, REMEMBER?

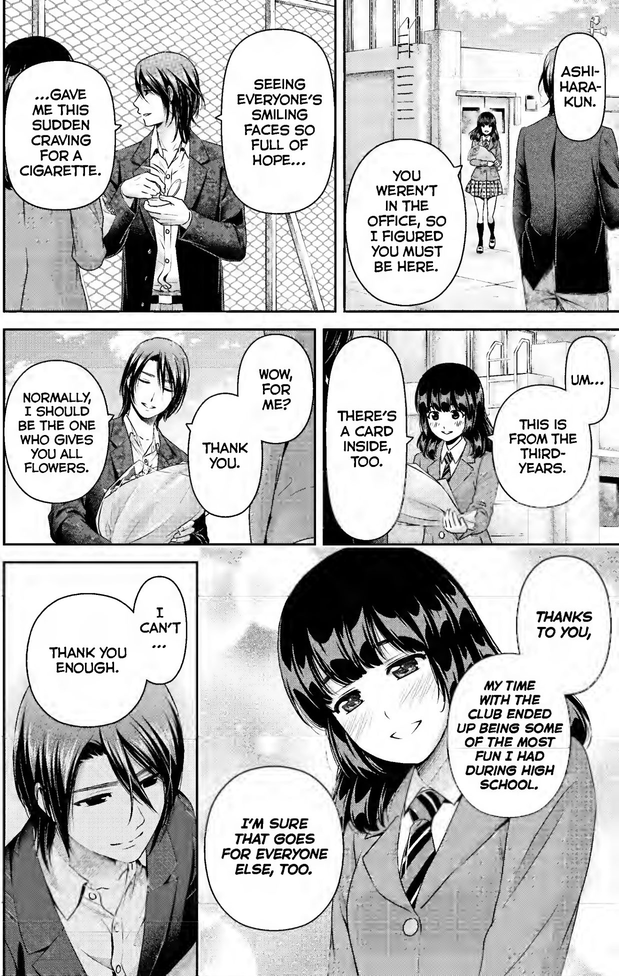
CHAPTER 137: BIRTH OF A RELATIONSHIP

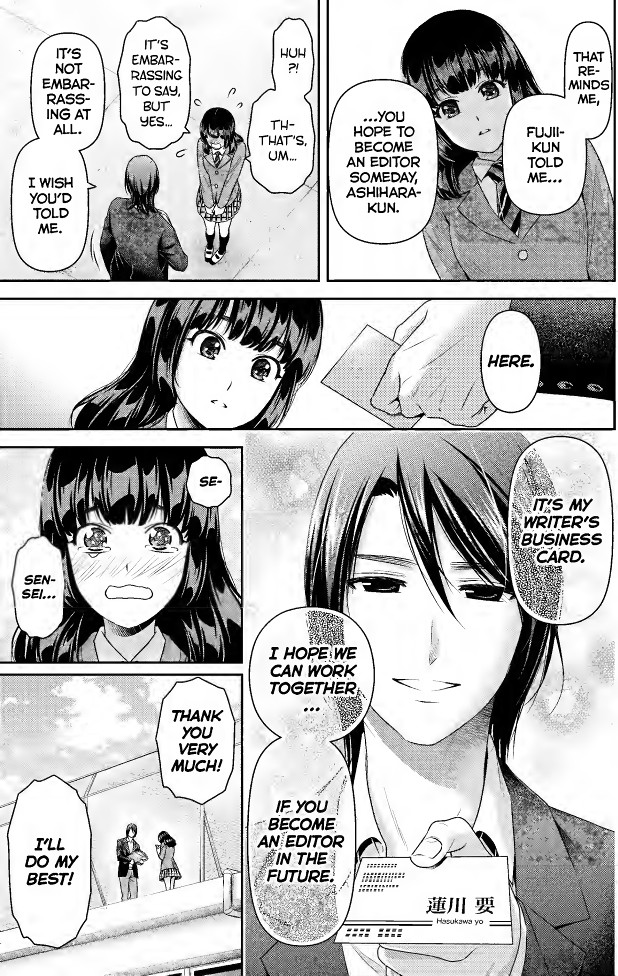

ABOUT TIME, MOMO-CHAN.
HUH? WHY ARE YOU SO DIRTY, OSAKA-KUN?
DID YOU FALL?
ER...
I, UM...
THAT'S THE MUD OF LOVE.
HUH?

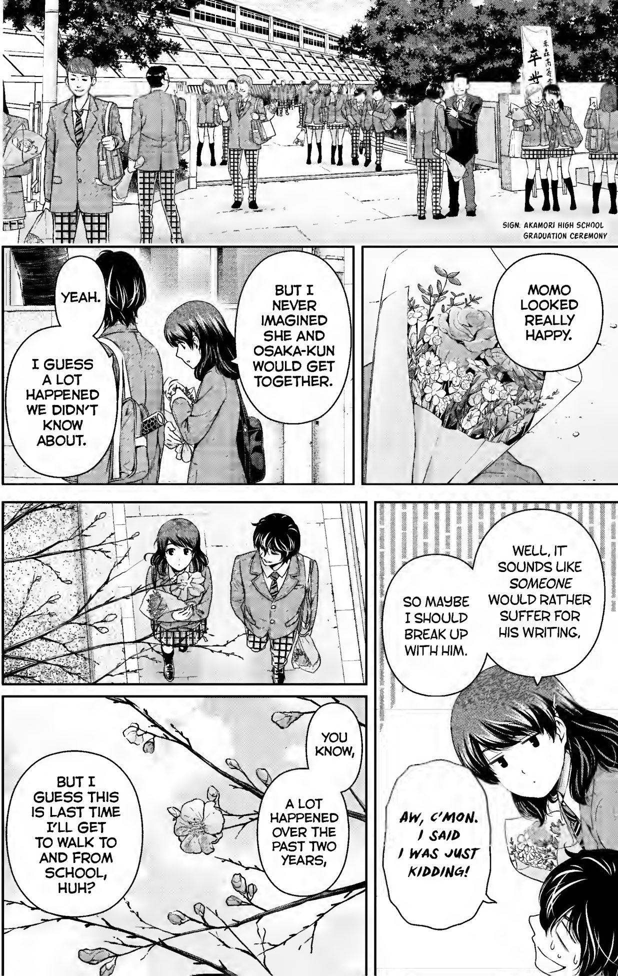

ACTUALLY,
RIKKUN AND I
MOMO-SEMPAI AND I
HAVE OFFICIALLY BECOME A COUPLE
!♥
!
WHAT ?!
REALLY?! CONGRATS!
CONGRATULATIONS, OSAKA-KUN!
WHO CONFESSED ?!
OH, I DID...
HEH, HEH, HEH ...
YOU'RE FINISHED.
WHAT ?
AS A WRITER, I MEAN!
YOU CHOSE TO CUT YOUR GROWTH AS A NOVELIST SHORT...
...IN EXCHANGE FOR INSTANT GRATIFICATION!
THERE'S NO WAY A NORMIE COULD WRITE A GRIPPING STORY!
AHH
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
あ
はっ
はっ
はっ
のっ

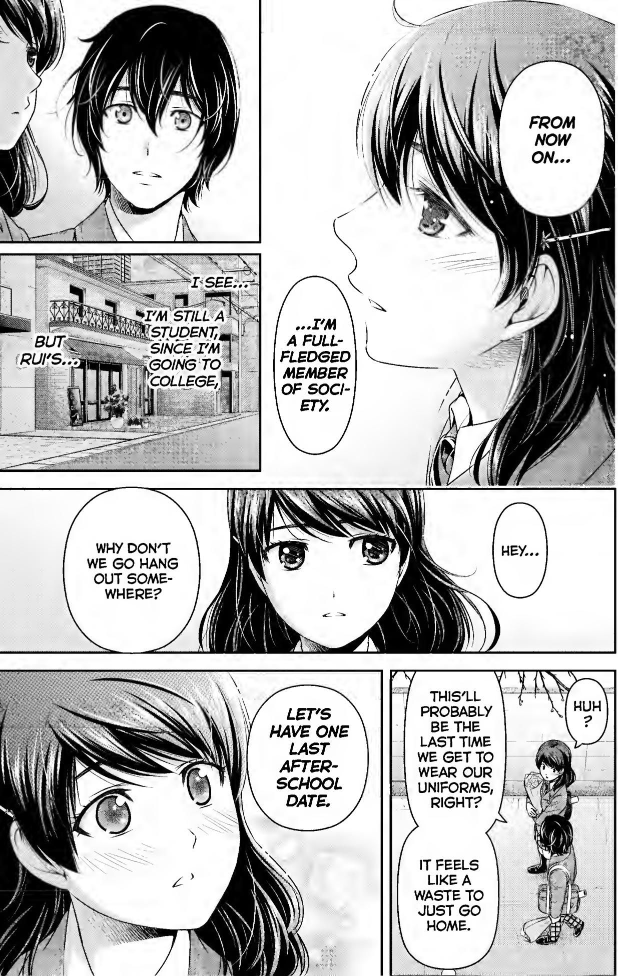

BOOO! DON'T BE SO CYNICAL, BARUSU!
I DON'T THINK THAT'S ALWAYS THE CASE ...
SURE, IT IS! WRITERS MUST NEVER FIND FULFILMENT IN ANYTHING BUT WRITING!
THEN WHAT ABOUT NATSUO-KUN?!
HE AND RUI-RUI ARE SUPER LOVEY-DOVEY, BUT HE'S STILL A GOOD WRITER!
HE HAS A POINT. I WROTE MY AWARD PIECE WHEN I WAS GOING THROUGH A REALLY TOUGH TIME...
HEY.
I'M JUST KIDDING!
...
THEN, YOU DON'T WANT...
...TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, SHIBASAKI-KUN?
NOT ME! TO HELL WITH THAT NONSENSE!
OH, REALLY?
WH-WHAT?
NOTHING.
ギリッ
GRIND
AGH ...!
うっ

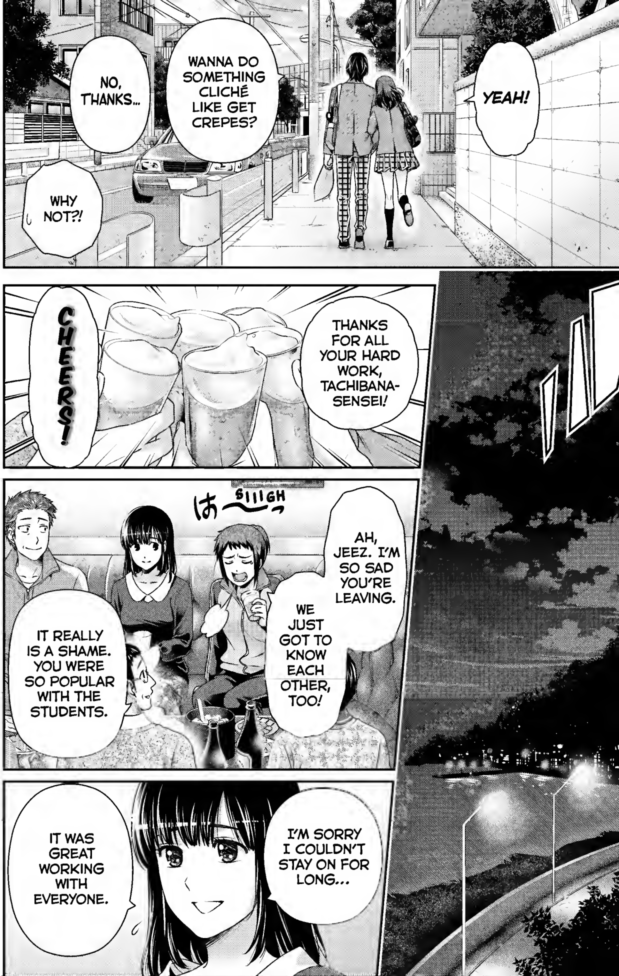

HEY...! WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
NO REASON.
OH, YEAH.
SHOULDN'T YOU GET GOING, ASHIHARA-SAN?
カ
RSTL
サッ
職員室
カラ...
RATL
EXCUSE MEEE.
HUH?
HE'S GONE.
カチャ...
CHACK
ヒュウッ
WHOOSH
SEN-SEI!
I KNEW I'D FIND YOU HERE.

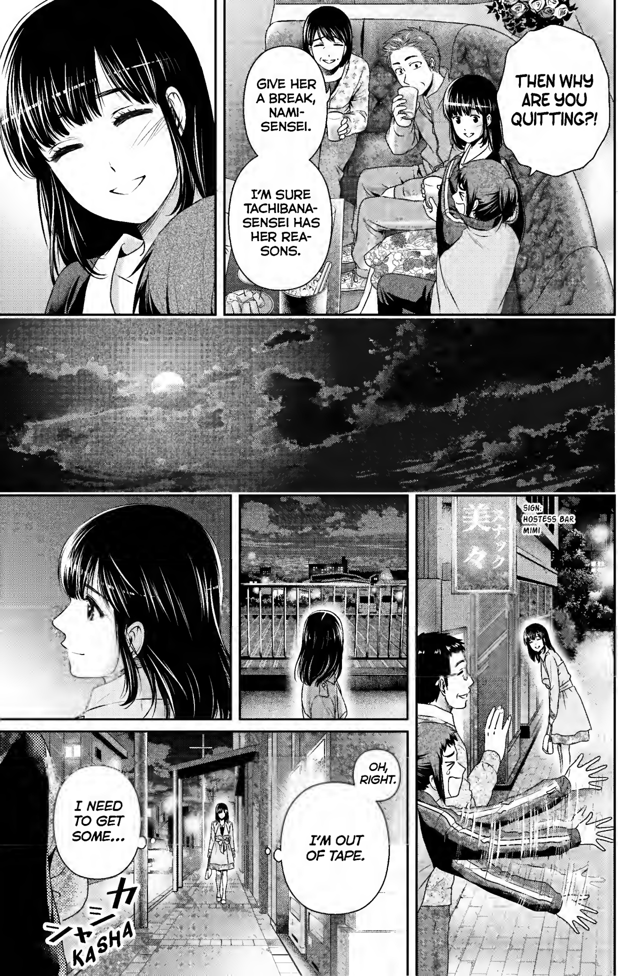

ASHI-HARA-KUN.
YOU WEREN'T IN THE OFFICE, SO I FIGURED YOU MUST BE HERE.
SEEING EVERYONE'S SMILING FACES SO FULL OF HOPE...
...GAVE ME THIS SUDDEN CRAVING FOR A CIGARETTE.
UM...
THIS IS FROM THE THIRD-YEARS.
THERE'S A CARD INSIDE, TOO.
WOW, FOR ME?
THANK YOU.
NORMALLY, I SHOULD BE THE ONE WHO GIVES YOU ALL FLOWERS.
THANKS TO YOU,
MY TIME WITH THE CLUB ENDED UP BEING SOME OF THE MOST FUN I HAD DURING HIGH SCHOOL.
I'M SURE THAT GOES FOR EVERYONE ELSE, TOO.
I CAN'T...
THANK YOU ENOUGH.

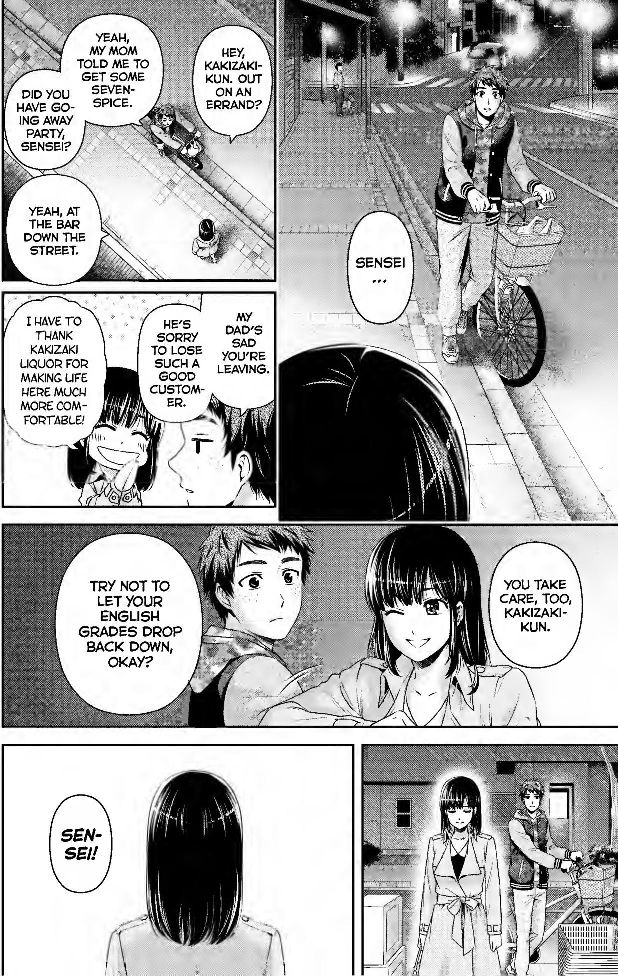

THAT REMINDS ME,
FUJII-KUN TOLD ME...
...YOU HOPE TO BECOME AN EDITOR SOMEDAY, ASHIHARA-KUN.
HUH?!
TH-THAT'S, UM...
IT'S EMBARRASSING TO SAY, BUT YES...
IT'S NOT EMBARRASSING AT ALL.
I WISH YOU'D TOLD ME.
HERE.
IT'S MY WRITER'S BUSINESS CARD.
I HOPE WE CAN WORK TOGETHER...
IF YOU BECOME AN EDITOR IN THE FUTURE.
蓮川 要
Hasukawa yo
SE-
SEN-SEI...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I'LL DO MY BEST!

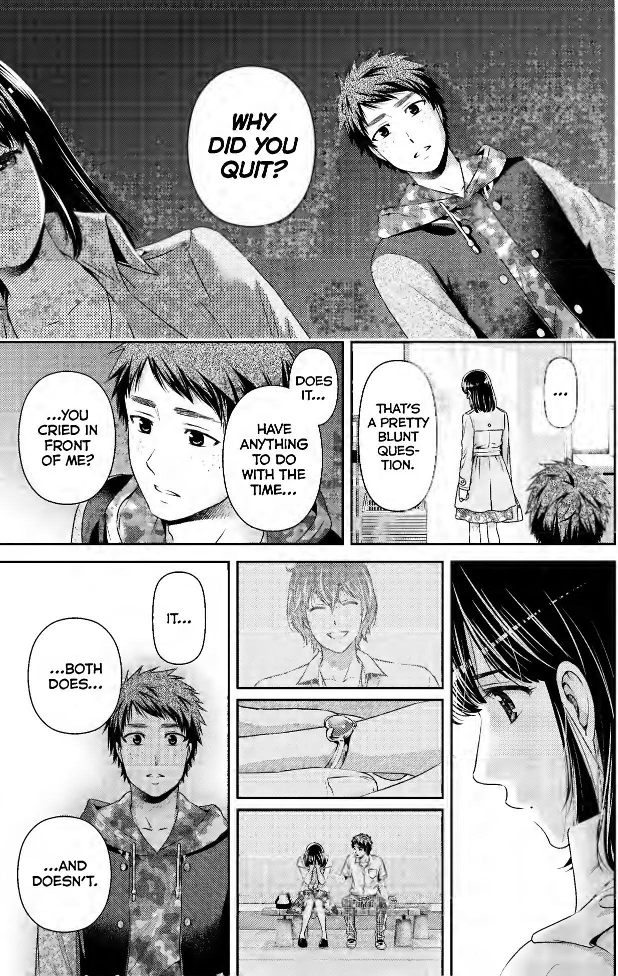

SIGN: AKAMORI HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY
MOMO LOOKED REALLY HAPPY.
BUT I NEVER IMAGINED SHE AND OSAKA-KUN WOULD GET TOGETHER.
YEAH.
I GUESS A LOT HAPPENED WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT.
YOU KNOW,
A LOT HAPPENED OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS,
BUT I GUESS THIS IS LAST TIME I'LL GET TO WALK TO AND FROM SCHOOL, HUH?
WELL, IT SOUNDS LIKE *SOMEONE* WOULD RATHER SUFFER FOR HIS WRITING,
SO MAYBE I SHOULD BREAK UP WITH HIM.
AW, C'MON. I SAID I WAS JUST KIDDING!

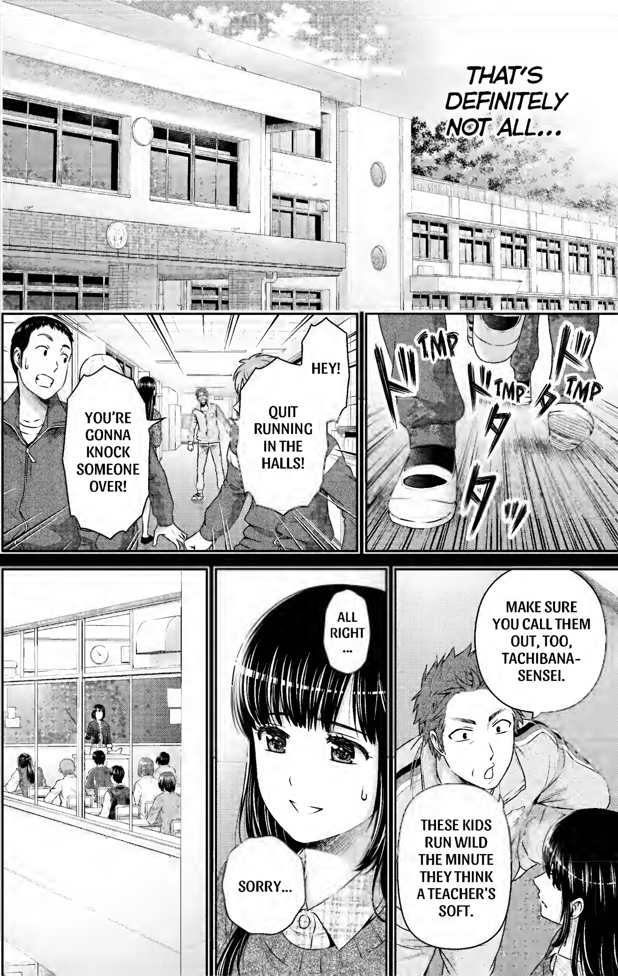

FROM NOW ON...
...I'M A FULL-FLEDGED MEMBER OF SOCIETY.
I SEE...
I'M STILL A STUDENT, SINCE I'M GOING TO COLLEGE,
BUT RUI'S...
HEY...
WHY DON'T WE GO HANG OUT SOMEWHERE?
HUH?
THIS'LL PROBABLY BE THE LAST TIME WE GET TO WEAR OUR UNIFORMS, RIGHT?
IT FEELS LIKE A WASTE TO JUST GO HOME.
LET'S HAVE ONE LAST AFTER-SCHOOL DATE.

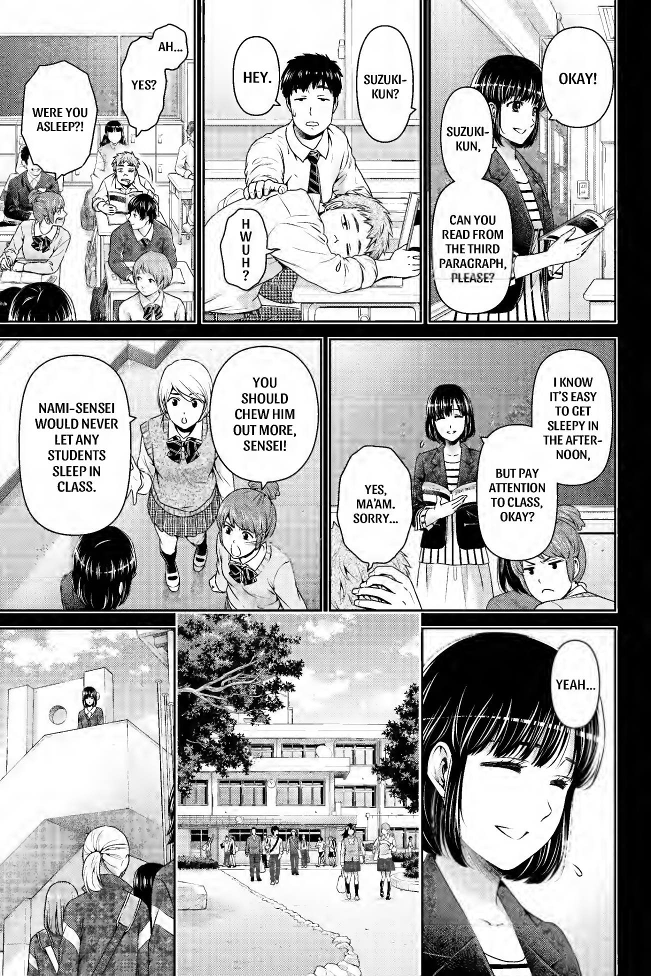

YEAH!
WANNA DO SOMETHING CLICHÉ LIKE GET CREPES?
NO, THANKS...
WHY NOT?!
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK, TACHIBANA-SENSEI!
CHEERS!
AH, JEEZ. I'M SO SAD YOU'RE LEAVING.
WE JUST GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER, TOO!
はー SIIIGH
IT REALLY IS A SHAME. YOU WERE SO POPULAR WITH THE STUDENTS.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T STAY ON FOR LONG...
IT WAS GREAT WORKING WITH EVERYONE.

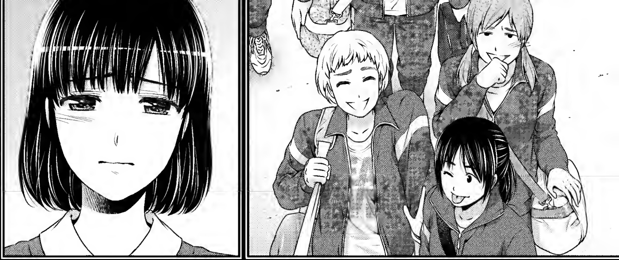

THEN WHY ARE YOU QUITTING?!
GIVE HER A BREAK, NAMI-SENSEI.
I'M SURE TACHIBANA-SENSEI HAS HER REASONS.
SIGN: HOSTESS BAR MIMI
美々
スナック
OH, RIGHT.
I'M OUT OF TAPE.
I NEED TO GET SOME...
カシャ
KASHA


SENSEI …
HEY, KAKIZAKI-KUN. OUT ON AN ERRAND?
YEAH, MY MOM TOLD ME TO GET SOME SEVEN-SPICE.
DID YOU HAVE GOING AWAY PARTY, SENSEI?
YEAH, AT THE BAR DOWN THE STREET.
MY DAD'S SAD YOU'RE LEAVING.
HE'S SORRY TO LOSE SUCH A GOOD CUSTOMER.
I HAVE TO THANK KAKIZAKI LIQUOR FOR MAKING LIFE HERE MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE!
YOU TAKE CARE, TOO, KAKIZAKI-KUN.
TRY NOT TO LET YOUR ENGLISH GRADES DROP BACK DOWN, OKAY?
SEN-SEI!

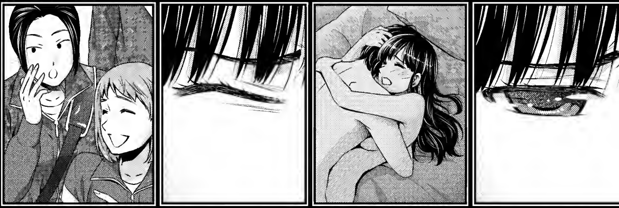

WHY DID YOU QUIT?
...
THAT'S A PRETTY BLUNT QUESTION.
DOES IT...
HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE TIME...
...YOU CRIED IN FRONT OF ME?
IT...
...BOTH DOES...
...AND DOESN'T.

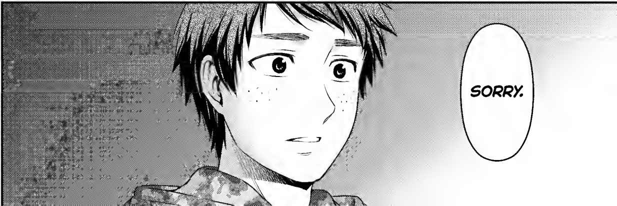

THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT ALL...
TMP
TMP
TMP
HEY!
QUIT RUNNING IN THE HALLS!
YOU'RE GONNA KNOCK SOMEONE OVER!
MAKE SURE YOU CALL THEM OUT, TOO, TACHIBANA-SENSEI.
THESE KIDS RUN WILD THE MINUTE THEY THINK A TEACHER'S SOFT.
ALL RIGHT...
SORRY...

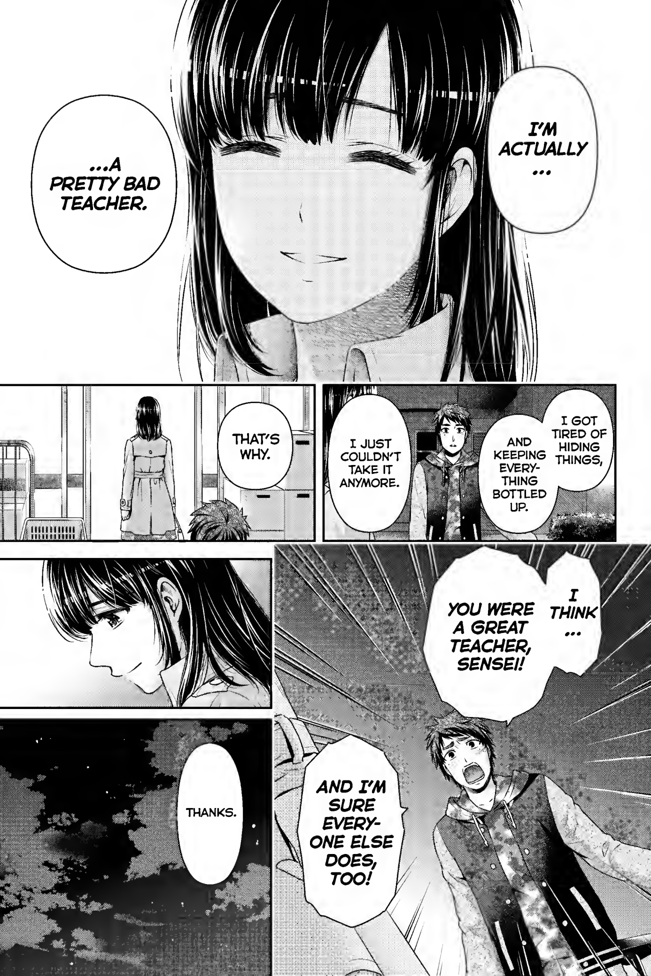

OKAY!
SUZUKI-KUN,
CAN YOU READ FROM THE THIRD PARAGRAPH, PLEASE?
SUZUKI-KUN?
HEY.
HWUH?
AH...
YES?
WERE YOU ASLEEP?!
I KNOW IT'S EASY TO GET SLEEPY IN THE AFTERNOON,
BUT PAY ATTENTION TO CLASS, OKAY?
YES, MA'AM. SORRY...
YOU SHOULD CHEW HIM OUT MORE, SENSEI!
NAMI-SENSEI WOULD NEVER LET ANY STUDENTS SLEEP IN CLASS.
YEAH...

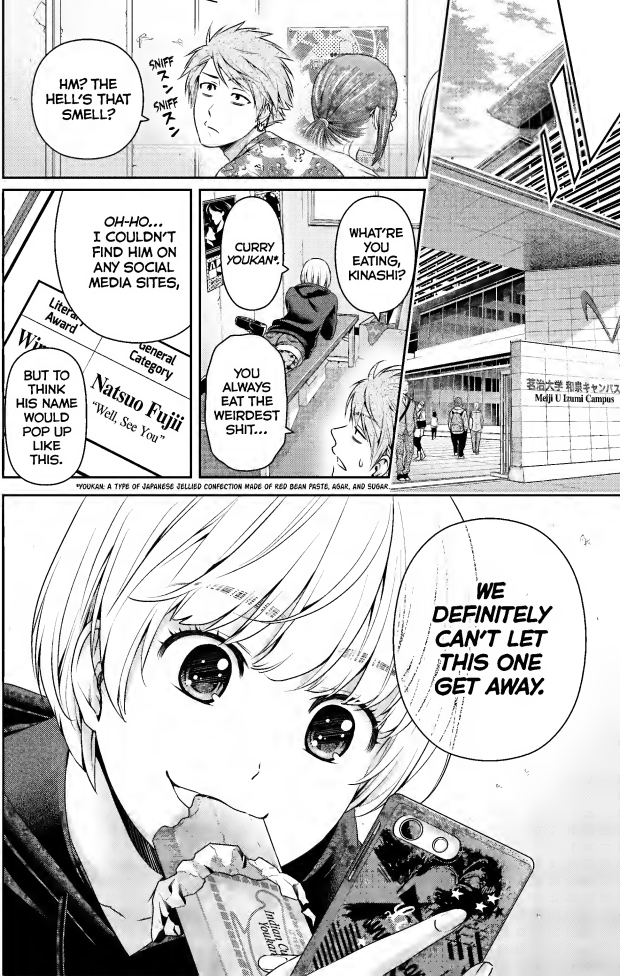


DO I HAVE ANY RIGHT TO GUIDE MY STUDENTS...
...AFTER THE MISTAKES I'VE MADE AS A TEACHER?
AS AN ADULT?

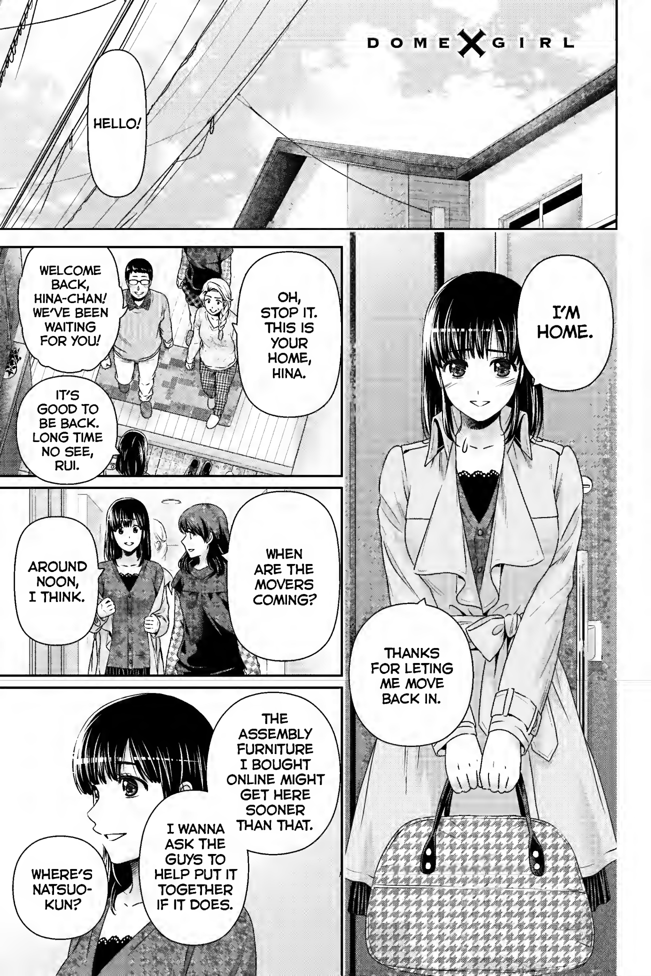


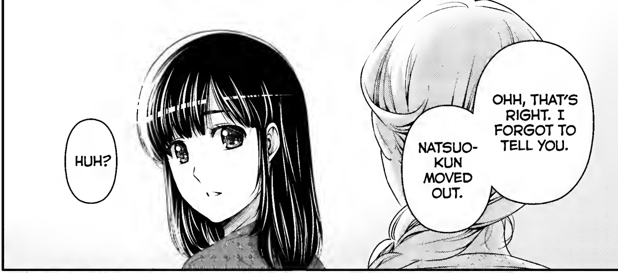


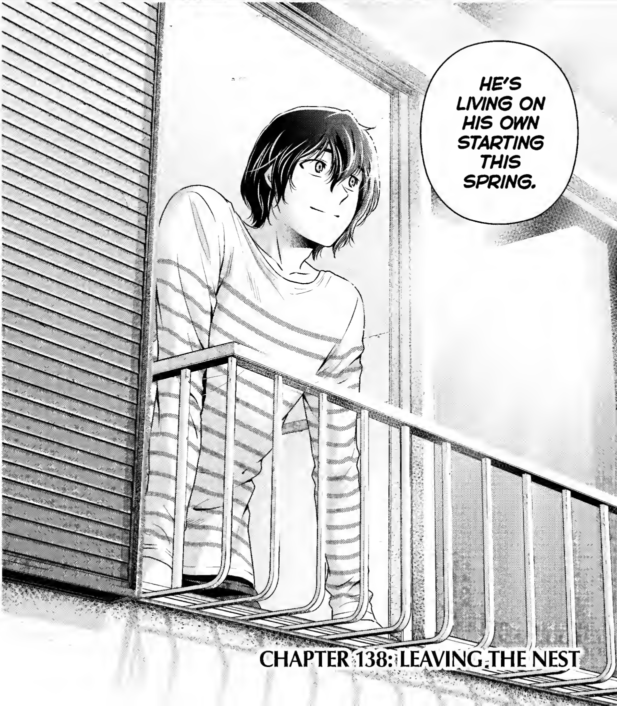

I'M ACTUALLY ...
...A PRETTY BAD TEACHER.
I GOT TIRED OF HIDING THINGS,
AND KEEPING EVERYTHING BOTTLED UP.
I JUST COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.
THAT'S WHY.
I THINK ...
YOU WERE A GREAT TEACHER, SENSEI!
AND I'M SURE EVERYONE ELSE DOES, TOO!
THANKS.


茗治大学 和泉キャンパス
Meiji U Izumi Campus
SNIFF スン SNIFF スン
HM? THE HELL'S THAT SMELL?
WHAT'RE YOU EATING, KINASHI?
CURRY *YOUKAN**.
YOU ALWAYS EAT THE WEIRDEST SHIT...
OH-HO... I COULDN'T FIND HIM ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITES,
Literar Award
General Category
Win
Natsuo Fujii
"Well, See You"
BUT TO THINK HIS NAME WOULD POP UP LIKE THIS.
WE DEFINITELY CAN'T LET THIS ONE GET AWAY.
Indian Cu Youkan

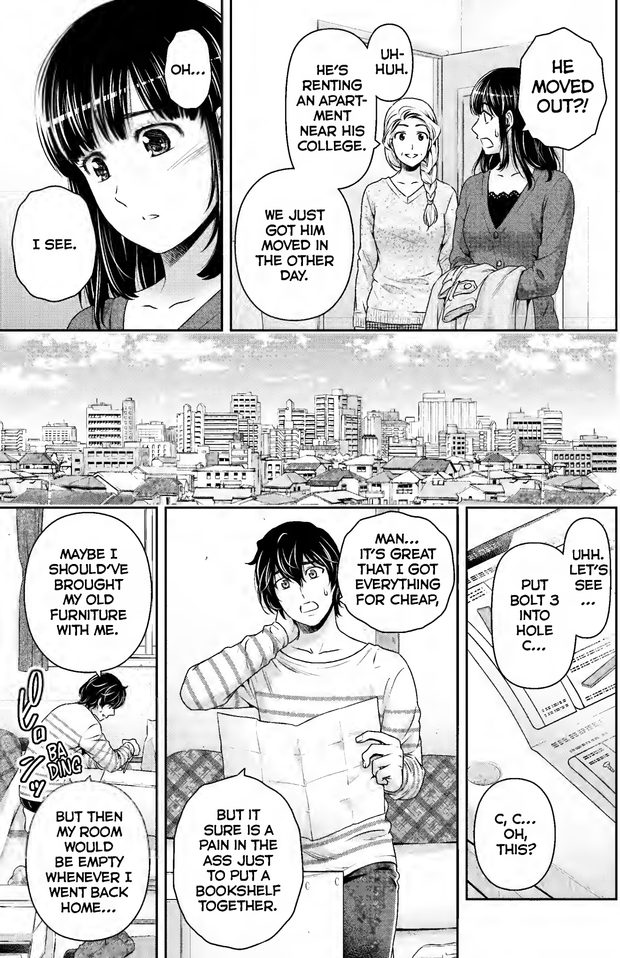
*YOUKAN: A TYPE OF JAPANESE JELLIED CONFECTION MADE OF RED BEAN PASTE, AGAR, AND SUGAR.

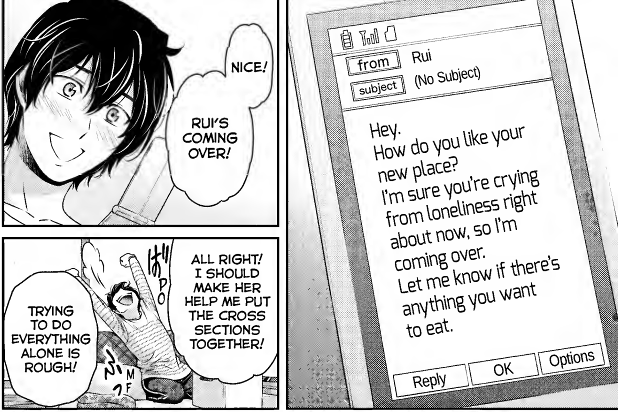

DOME X GIRL
HELLO!
I'M HOME.
WELCOME BACK, HINA-CHAN! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
OH, STOP IT. THIS IS YOUR HOME, HINA.
IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK. LONG TIME NO SEE, RUI.
THANKS FOR LETING ME MOVE BACK IN.
WHEN ARE THE MOVERS COMING?
AROUND NOON, I THINK.
THE ASSEMBLY FURNITURE I BOUGHT ONLINE MIGHT GET HERE SOONER THAN THAT.
I WANNA ASK THE GUYS TO HELP PUT IT TOGETHER IF IT DOES.
WHERE'S NATSUO-KUN?


OHH, THAT'S RIGHT. I FORGOT TO TELL YOU.
NATSUO-KUN MOVED OUT.
HUH?


HE'S LIVING ON HIS OWN STARTING THIS SPRING.

CHAPTER 138: LEAVING THE NEST

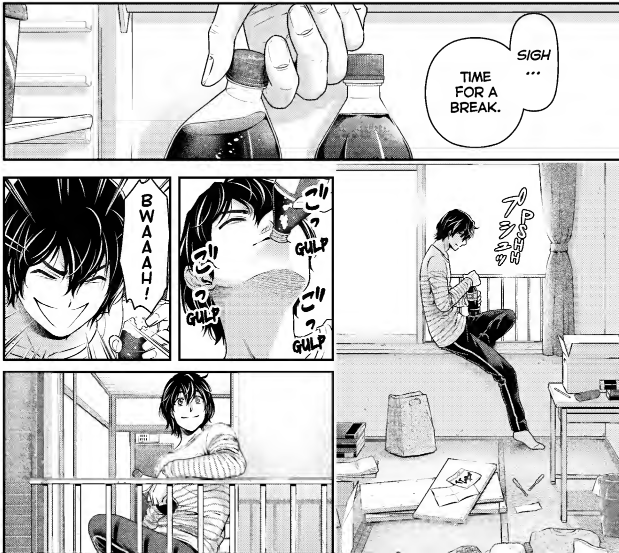

HE MOVED OUT?!
UH-HUH.
HE'S RENTING AN APARTMENT NEAR HIS COLLEGE.
WE JUST GOT HIM MOVED IN THE OTHER DAY.
OH...
I SEE.
UHH. LET'S SEE ...
PUT BOLT 3 INTO HOLE C...
C, C... OH, THIS?
MAN... IT'S GREAT THAT I GOT EVERYTHING FOR CHEAP,
BUT IT SURE IS A PAIN IN THE ASS JUST TO PUT A BOOKSHELF TOGETHER.
MAYBE I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT MY OLD FURNITURE WITH ME.
BA DING
BUT THEN MY ROOM WOULD BE EMPTY WHENEVER I WENT BACK HOME...

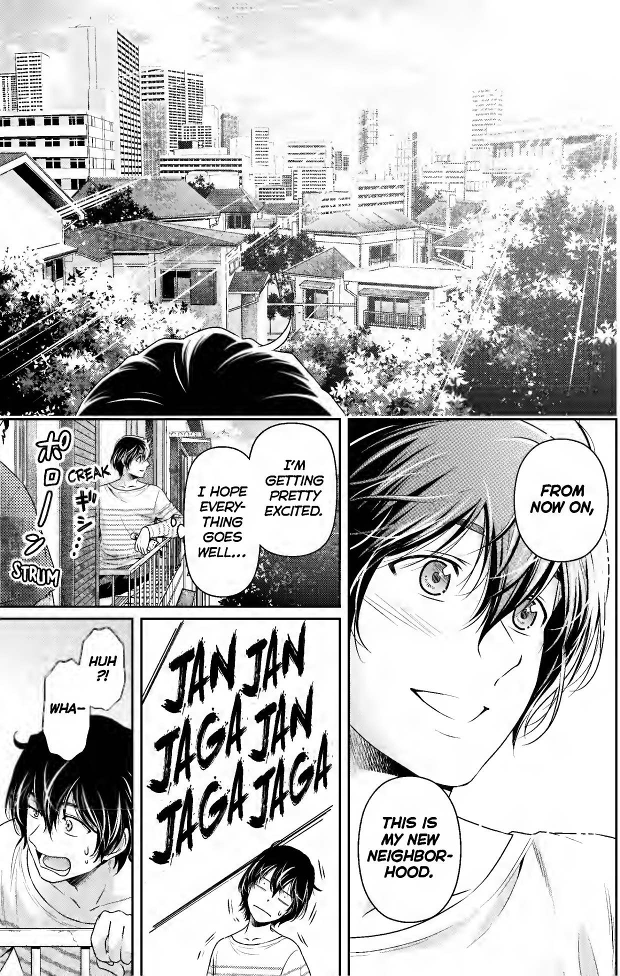


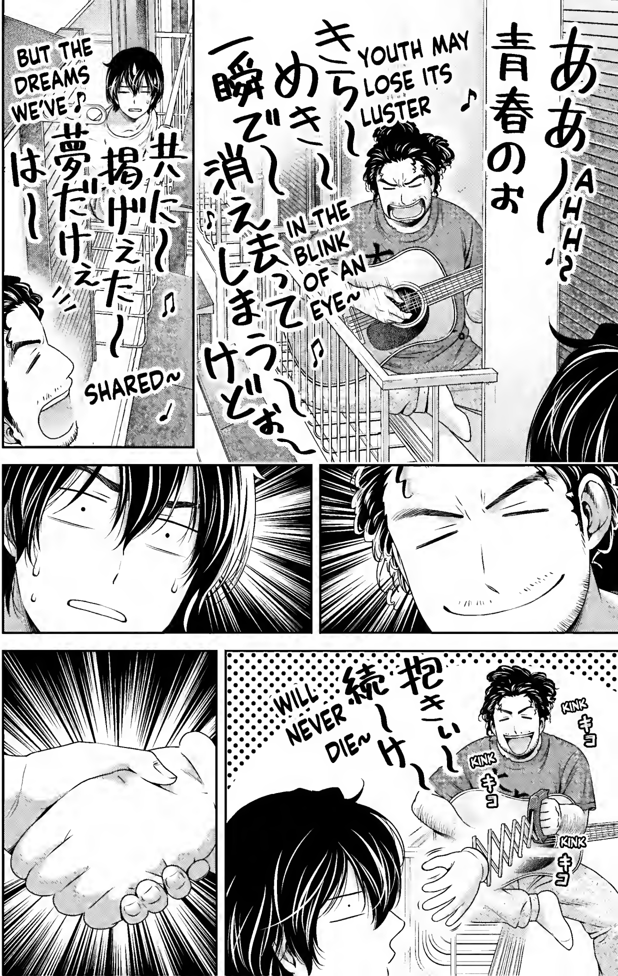
from Rui
subject (No Subject)

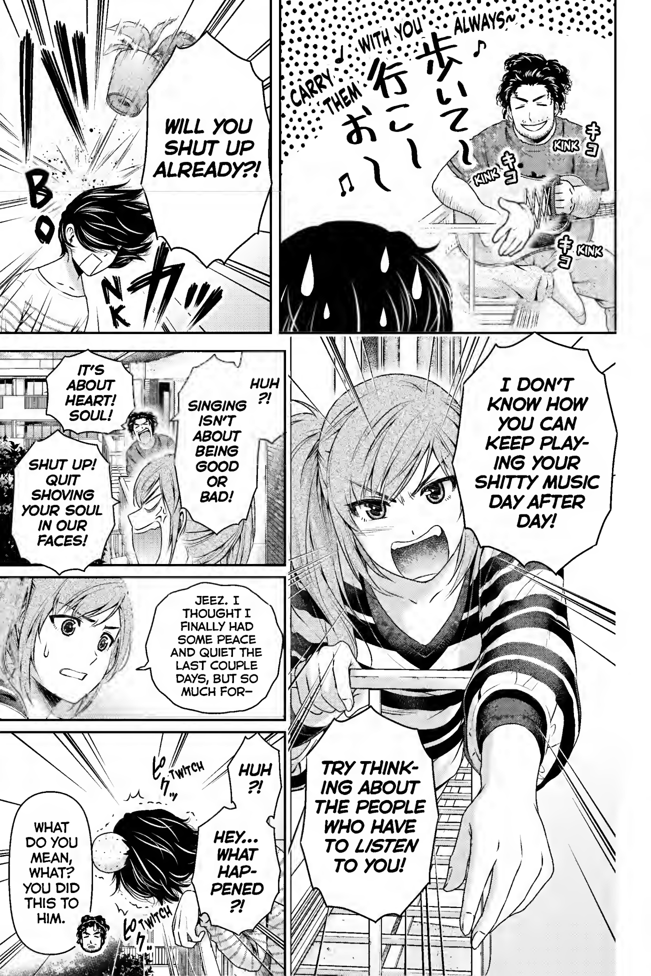
Hey.
How do you like your new place?
I'm sure you're crying from loneliness right about now, so I'm coming over.
Let me know if there's anything you want to eat.

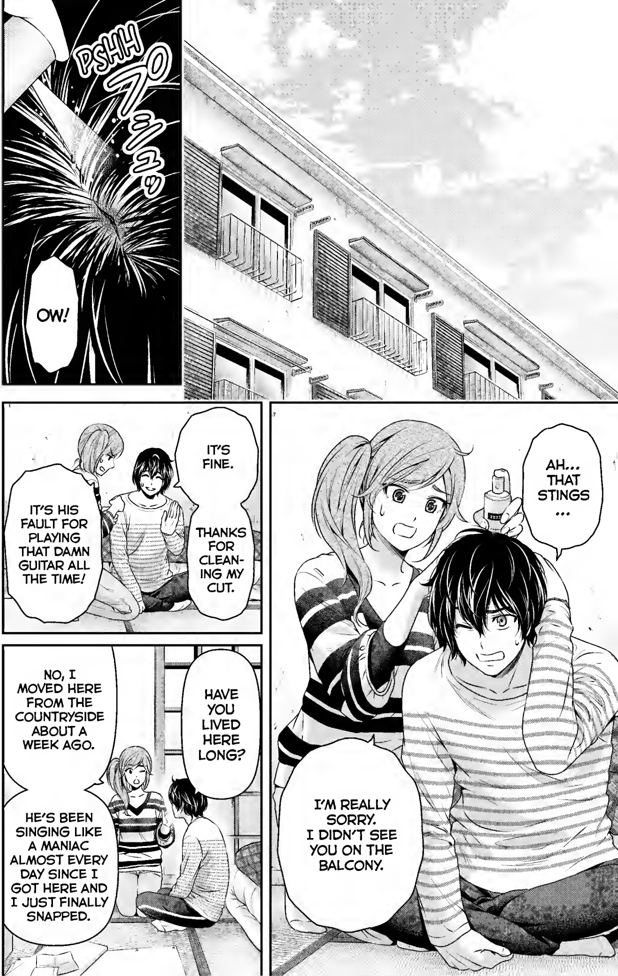
Reply
OK
Options
NICE!
RUI'S COMING OVER!
ALL RIGHT! I SHOULD MAKE HER HELP ME PUT THE CROSS SECTIONS TOGETHER!
ばっ PO
TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING ALONE IS ROUGH!
ふっ MF

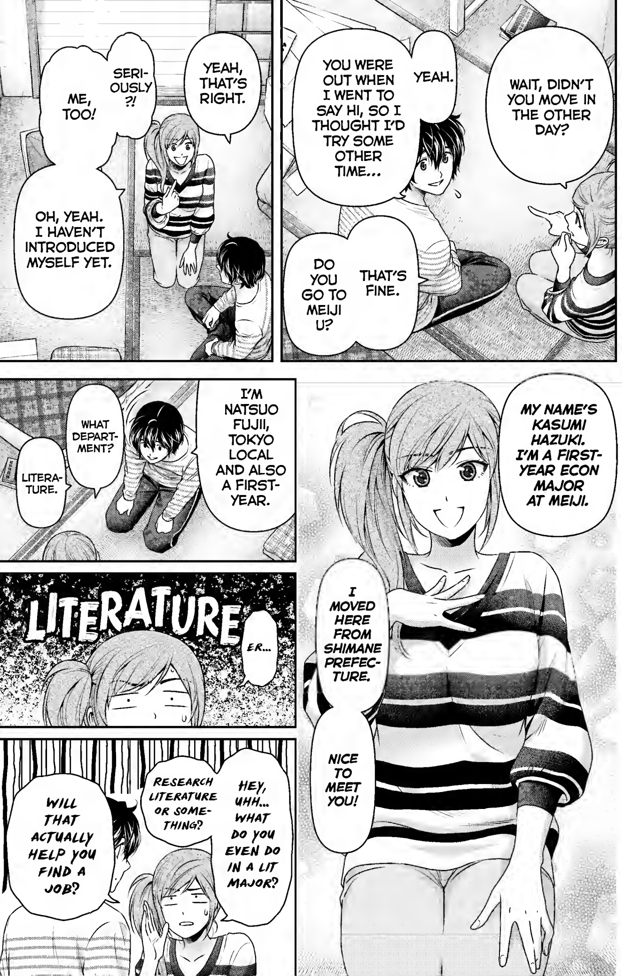

SIGH...
TIME FOR A BREAK.
プシュッ PSSHH
ごっ GULP
ごっ GULP
ごっ GULP
BWAAAH!

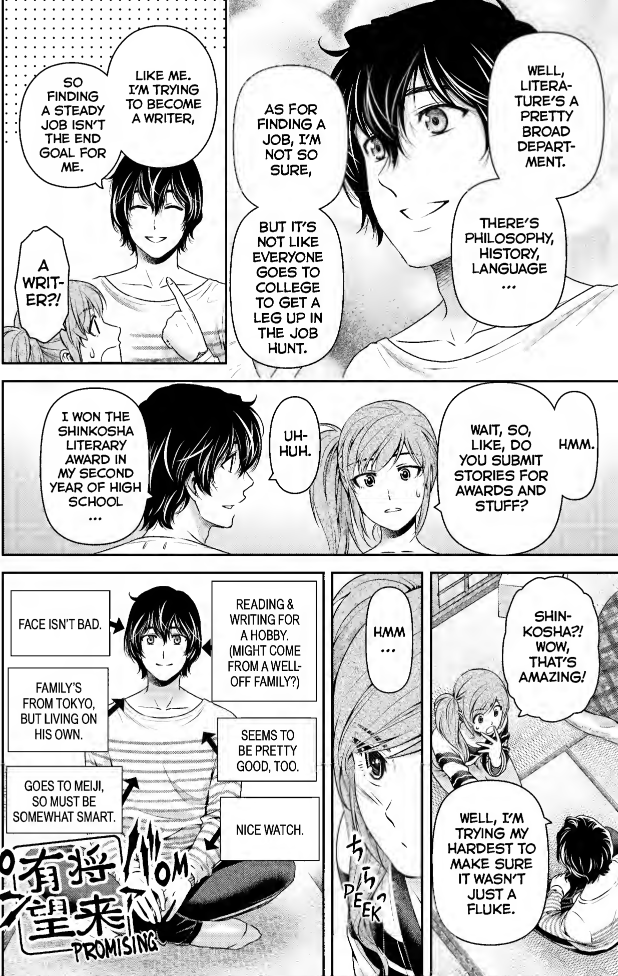

FROM NOW ON,
THIS IS MY NEW NEIGHBOR-HOOD.
I'M GETTING PRETTY EXCITED.
I HOPE EVERY-THING GOES WELL...
ギシ…
CREAK
ポロ~ン
STRUM
JAN JAN JAGA JAN JAGA JAGA
HUH ?!
WHA-

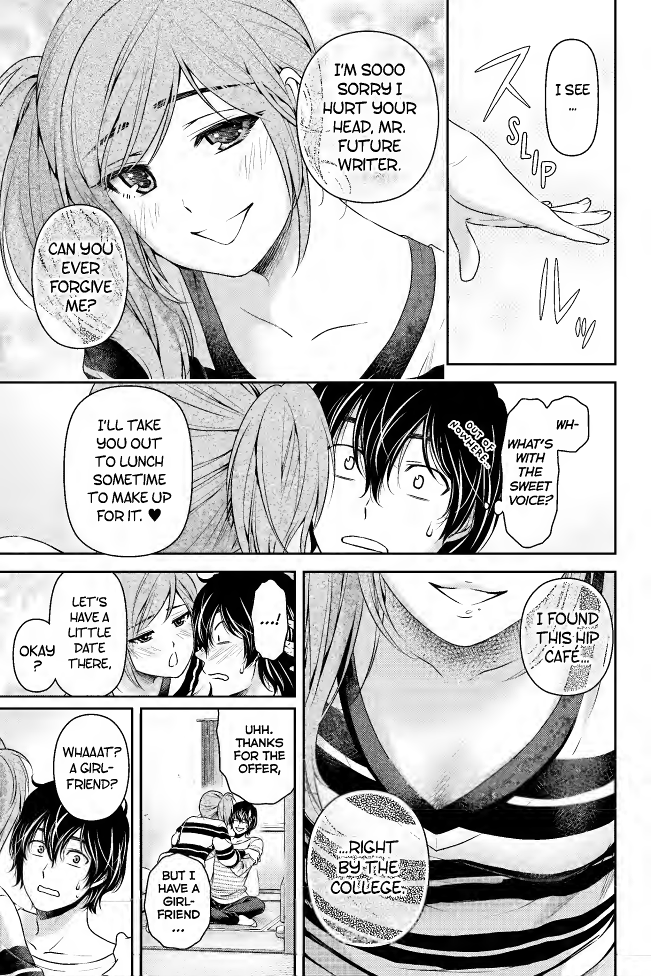

ああ〜
AHH〜
青春のぉ
YOUTH MAY LOSE ITS LUSTER ♪
きらめき〜
一瞬で〜消え去ってしまう〜けどぉ〜
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE~ ♪
共に〜掲げえた〜夢だけぇは〜
BUT THE DREAMS WE'VE ♪
SHARED~ ♪
抱きぃ〜続け〜
WILL NEVER DIE~
KINK キコ
KINK キコ
KINK キコ

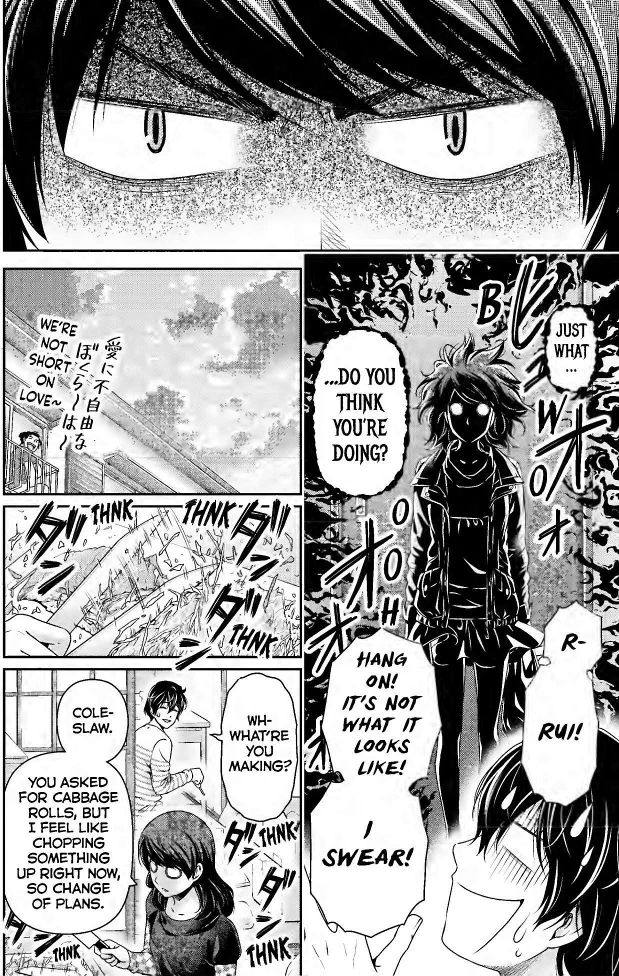

CARRY ♩ THEM WITH YOU ALWAYS~ ♪
歩いて～
行こ～お～ ♫
キコ KINK
キコ KINK
キコ KINK
WILL YOU SHUT UP ALREADY?!
BONK
カツ
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN KEEP PLAYING YOUR SHITTY MUSIC DAY AFTER DAY!
TRY THINKING ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOU!
HUH ?!
SINGING ISN'T ABOUT BEING GOOD OR BAD!
IT'S ABOUT HEART! SOUL!
SHUT UP! QUIT SHOVING YOUR SOUL IN OUR FACES!
JEEZ. I THOUGHT I FINALLY HAD SOME PEACE AND QUIET THE LAST COUPLE DAYS, BUT SO MUCH FOR–
ピクッ TWITCH
HUH ?!
HEY... WHAT HAPPENED ?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT? YOU DID THIS TO HIM.
ピクッ TWITCH

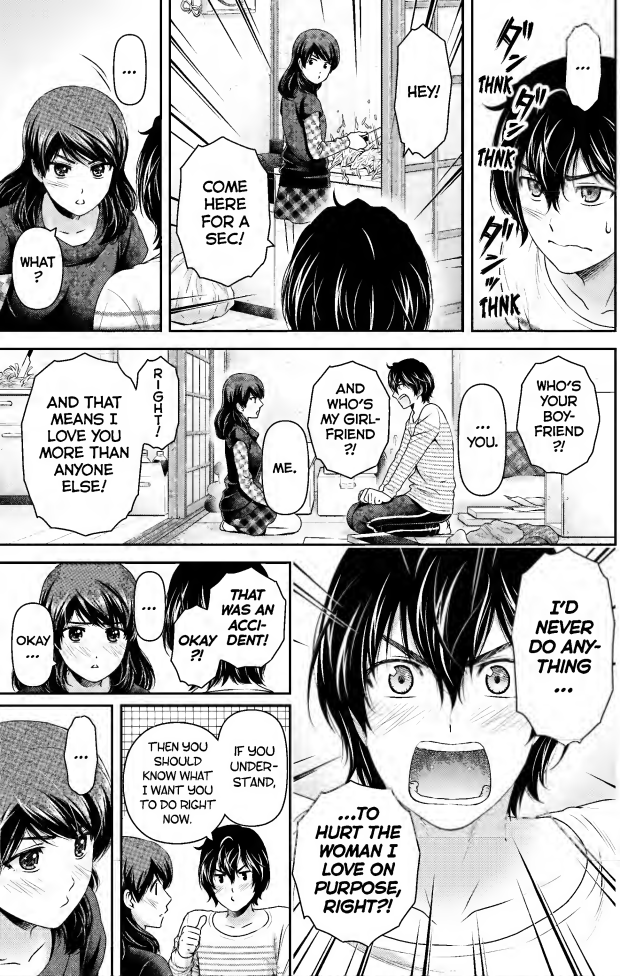

PSHH
プシュッ
OW!
AH... THAT STINGS...
I'M REALLY SORRY. I DIDN'T SEE YOU ON THE BALCONY.
IT'S FINE.
THANKS FOR CLEANING MY CUT.
IT'S HIS FAULT FOR PLAYING THAT DAMN GUITAR ALL THE TIME!
HAVE YOU LIVED HERE LONG?
NO, I MOVED HERE FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE ABOUT A WEEK AGO.
HE'S BEEN SINGING LIKE A MANIAC ALMOST EVERY DAY SINCE I GOT HERE AND I JUST FINALLY SNAPPED.

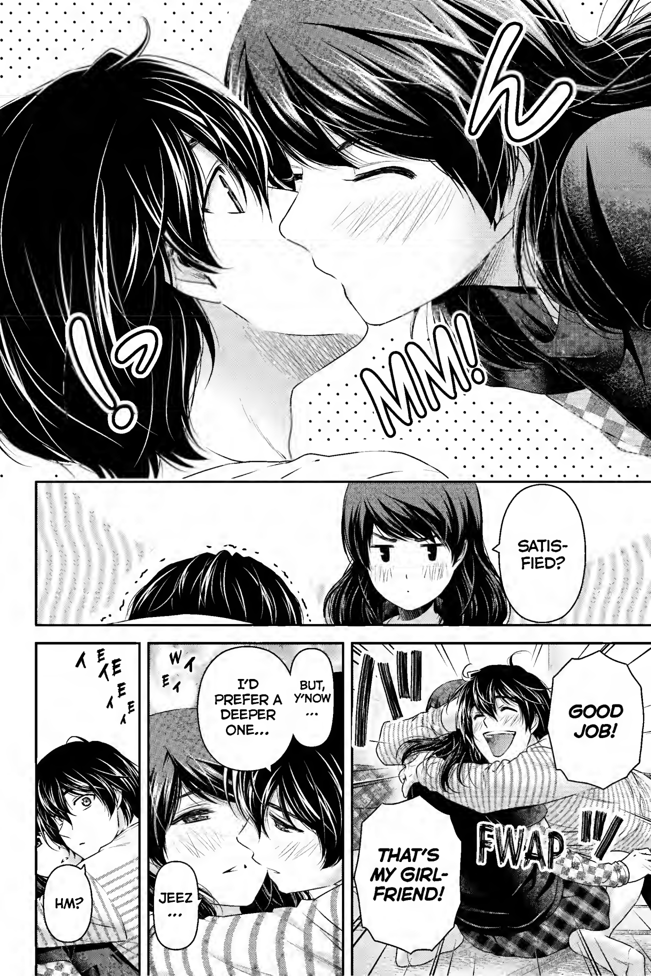

WAIT, DIDN'T YOU MOVE IN THE OTHER DAY?
YEAH.
YOU WERE OUT WHEN I WENT TO SAY HI, SO I THOUGHT I'D TRY SOME OTHER TIME...
THAT'S FINE.
DO YOU GO TO MEIJI U?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
SERIOUSLY?!
ME, TOO!
OH, YEAH. I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET.
MY NAME'S KASUMI HAZUKI. I'M A FIRST-YEAR ECON MAJOR AT MEIJI.
I MOVED HERE FROM SHIMANE PREFECTURE.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
I'M NATSUO FUJII, TOKYO LOCAL AND ALSO A FIRST-YEAR.
WHAT DEPARTMENT?
LITERATURE.
LITERATURE
ER...
HEY, UHH... WHAT DO YOU EVEN DO IN A LIT MAJOR?
RESEARCH LITERATURE OR SOMETHING?
WILL THAT ACTUALLY HELP YOU FIND A JOB?

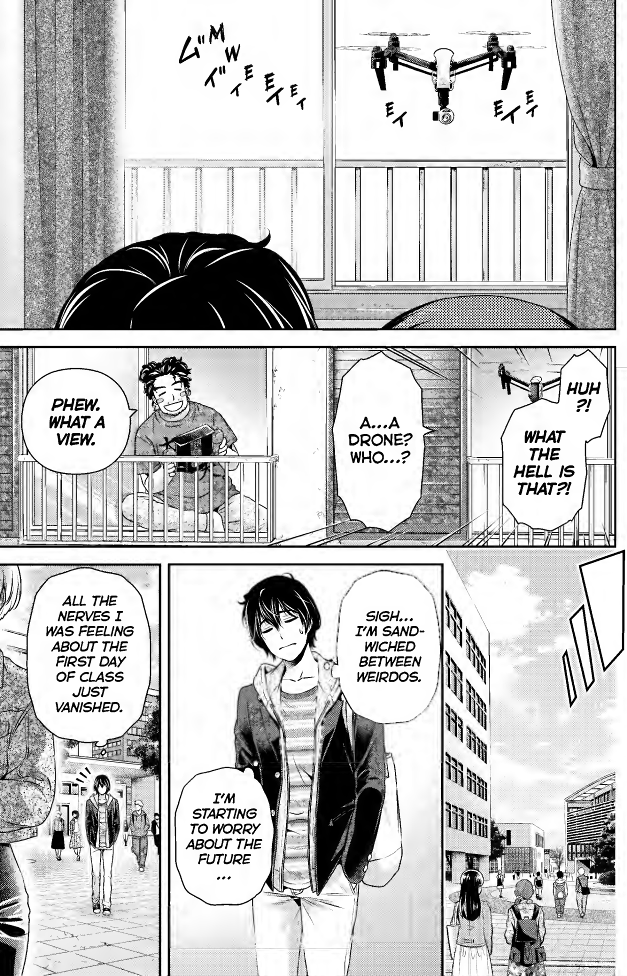

WELL, LITERATURE'S A PRETTY BROAD DEPARTMENT.
THERE'S PHILOSOPHY, HISTORY, LANGUAGE ...
AS FOR FINDING A JOB, I'M NOT SO SURE,
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE EVERYONE GOES TO COLLEGE TO GET A LEG UP IN THE JOB HUNT.
LIKE ME. I'M TRYING TO BECOME A WRITER,
SO FINDING A STEADY JOB ISN'T THE END GOAL FOR ME.
A WRITER?!
HMM.
WAIT, SO, LIKE, DO YOU SUBMIT STORIES FOR AWARDS AND STUFF?
UH-HUH.
I WON THE SHINKOSHA LITERARY AWARD IN MY SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL ...
SHINKOSHA?! WOW, THAT'S AMAZING!
WELL, I'M TRYING MY HARDEST TO MAKE SURE IT WASN'T JUST A FLUKE.
HMM ...
ちらっ
PEEK
READING & WRITING FOR A HOBBY. (MIGHT COME FROM A WELL-OFF FAMILY?)
FACE ISN'T BAD.
SEEMS TO BE PRETTY GOOD, TOO.
FAMILY'S FROM TOKYO, BUT LIVING ON HIS OWN.
NICE WATCH.
GOES TO MEIJI, SO MUST BE SOMEWHAT SMART.
BOOM
将来有望!!
PROMISING

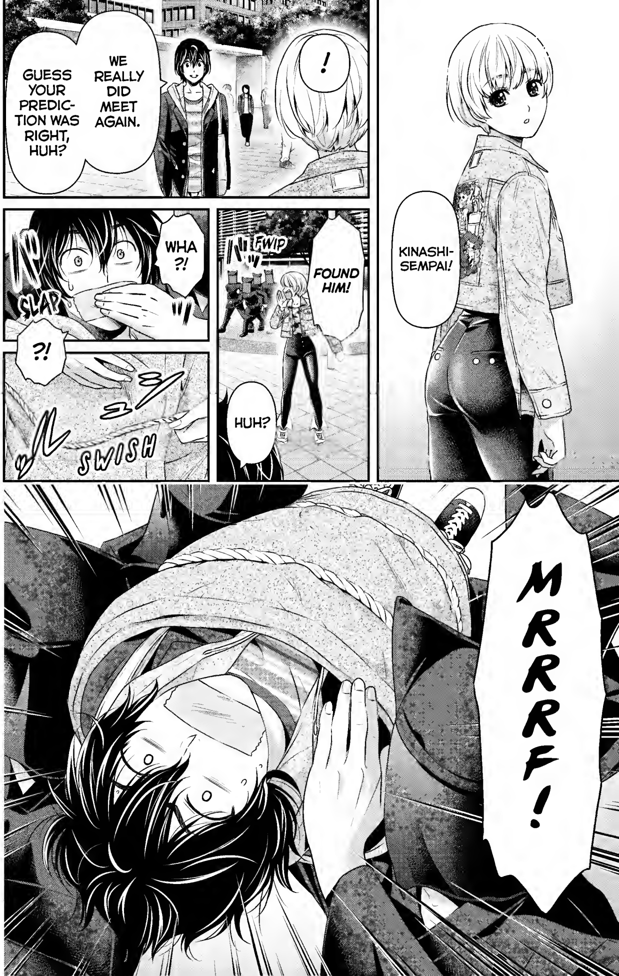

I SEE ...
スル
SLIP
ッ
I'M SOOO SORRY I HURT YOUR HEAD, MR. FUTURE WRITER.
CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?
WH- WHAT'S WITH THE SWEET VOICE?
OUT OF NOWHERE...
I'LL TAKE YOU OUT TO LUNCH SOMETIME TO MAKE UP FOR IT. ♥
I FOUND THIS HIP CAFÉ...
...RIGHT BY THE COLLEGE.
...!
LET'S HAVE A LITTLE DATE THERE,
OKAY ?
UHH. THANKS FOR THE OFFER,
BUT I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND ...
WHAAAT? A GIRLFRIEND?


JUST WHAT...
...DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
BWOOOOH
ゴオオオオ
R- RUI!
HANG ON! IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE! I SWEAR!
WE'RE NOT SHORT ON LOVE~
愛に不自由なぼくら～は～
THNK THNK THNK
ダン ダン ダン
WH- WHAT'RE YOU MAKING?
COLE-SLAW.
YOU ASKED FOR CABBAGE ROLLS, BUT I FEEL LIKE CHOPPING SOMETHING UP RIGHT NOW, SO CHANGE OF PLANS.
THNK THNK THNK
ダン ダン ダン

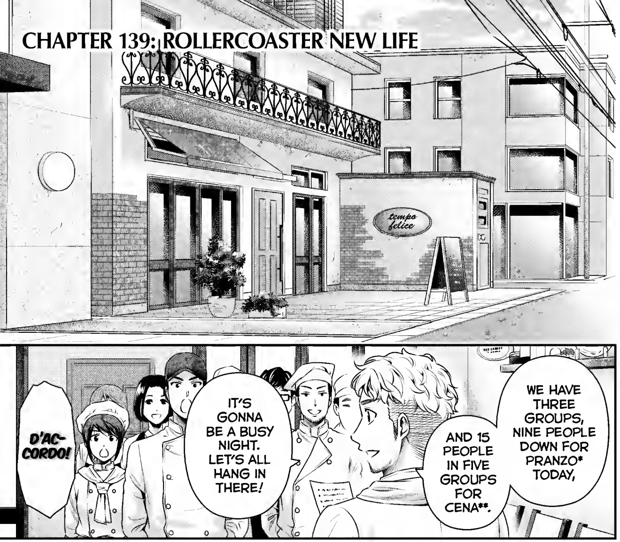

...
ダン THNK
ダン THNK
ダン THNK
ダンッ THNK
HEY!
COME HERE FOR A SEC!
...
WHAT?
WHO'S YOUR BOYFRIEND?!
...YOU.
AND WHO'S MY GIRLFRIEND?!
ME.
RIGHT!
AND THAT MEANS I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE!
I'D NEVER DO ANYTHING...
...TO HURT THE WOMAN I LOVE ON PURPOSE, RIGHT?!
THAT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
OKAY?!
...
OKAY...
IF YOU UNDERSTAND,
THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO RIGHT NOW.
...


h
MM!
!?
SATISFIED?
GOOD JOB!
FWAP!!
THAT'S MY GIRLFRIEND!
BUT, Y'NOW...
I'D PREFER A DEEPER ONE...
JEEZ...
イエイエイエイエ
HM?

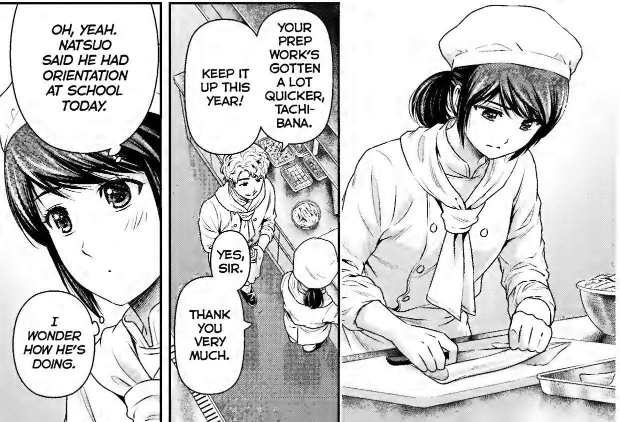

ム゛M W
イ゛ミイ ミイ ミイ
ミイ
ミイ ミイ
HUH?! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
A...A DRONE? WHO...?
PHEW. WHAT A VIEW.
SIGH... I'M SANDWICHED BETWEEN WEIRDOS.
I'M STARTING TO WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE...
ALL THE NERVES I WAS FEELING ABOUT THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS JUST VANISHED.

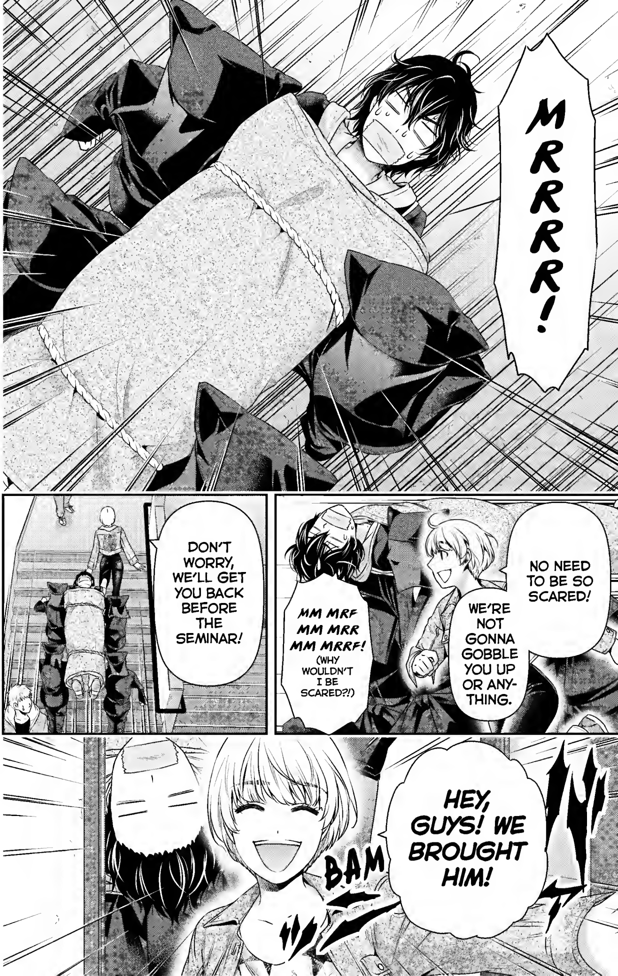

KINASHI-SEMPAI!
!
WE REALLY DID MEET AGAIN.
GUESS YOUR PREDICTION WAS RIGHT, HUH?
FOUND HIM!
バッ
FWIP
HUH?
WHA?!
パ
SLAP
?!
SWISH
MRRRF!

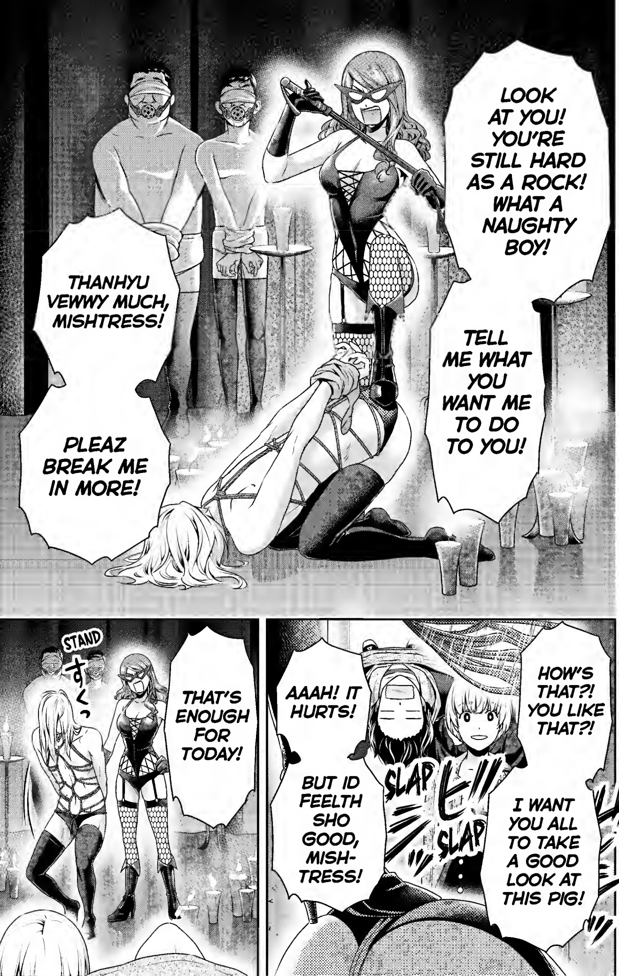
CHAPTER 139: ROLLERCOASTER NEW LIFE

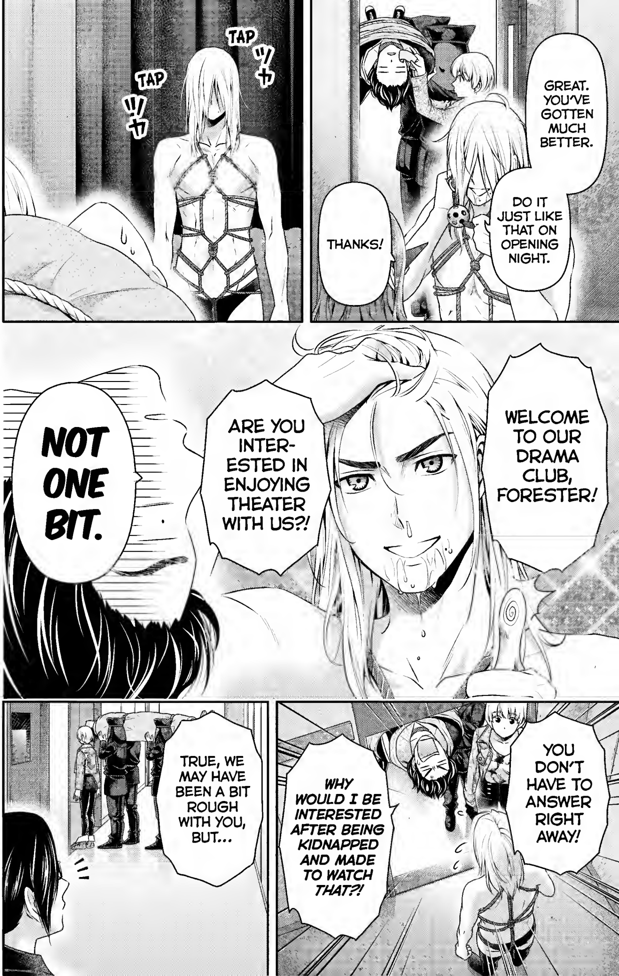

tempo felice
WE HAVE THREE GROUPS, NINE PEOPLE DOWN FOR PRANZO* TODAY,
AND 15 PEOPLE IN FIVE GROUPS FOR CENA**.
IT'S GONNA BE A BUSY NIGHT. LET'S ALL HANG IN THERE!
D'AC-CORDO!

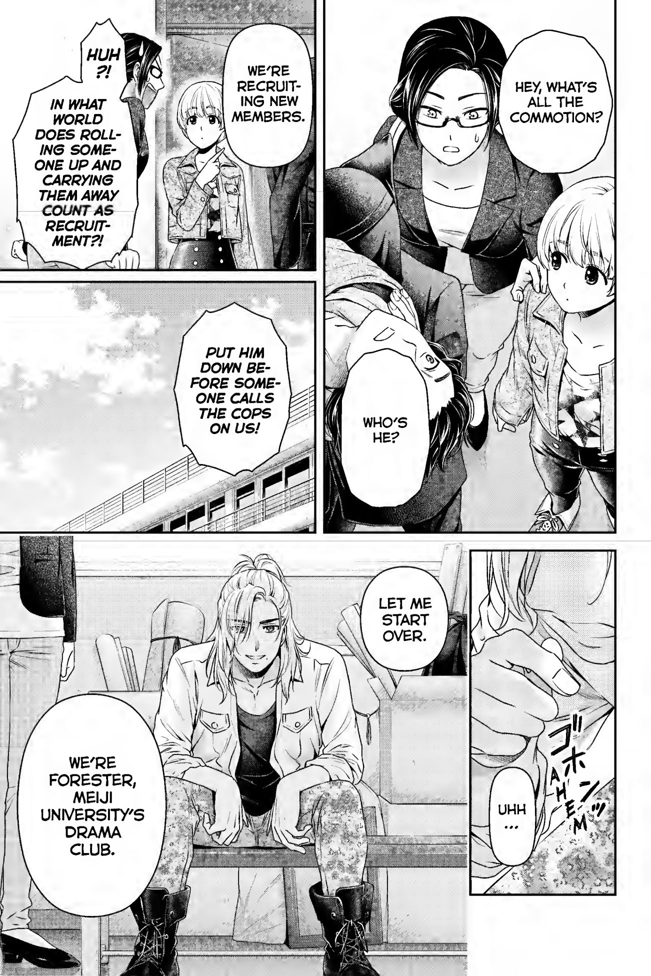
*PRANZO: LUNCH **CENA: DINNER

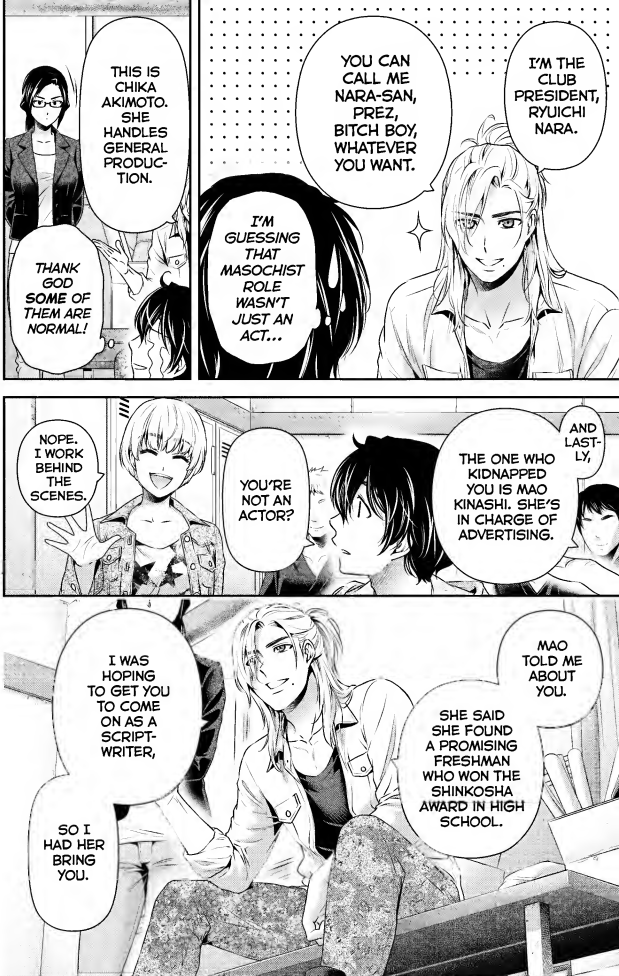

YOUR PREP WORK'S GOTTEN A LOT QUICKER, TACHIBANA.
KEEP IT UP THIS YEAR!
YES, SIR.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
OH, YEAH. NATSUO SAID HE HAD ORIENTATION AT SCHOOL TODAY.
I WONDER HOW HE'S DOING.

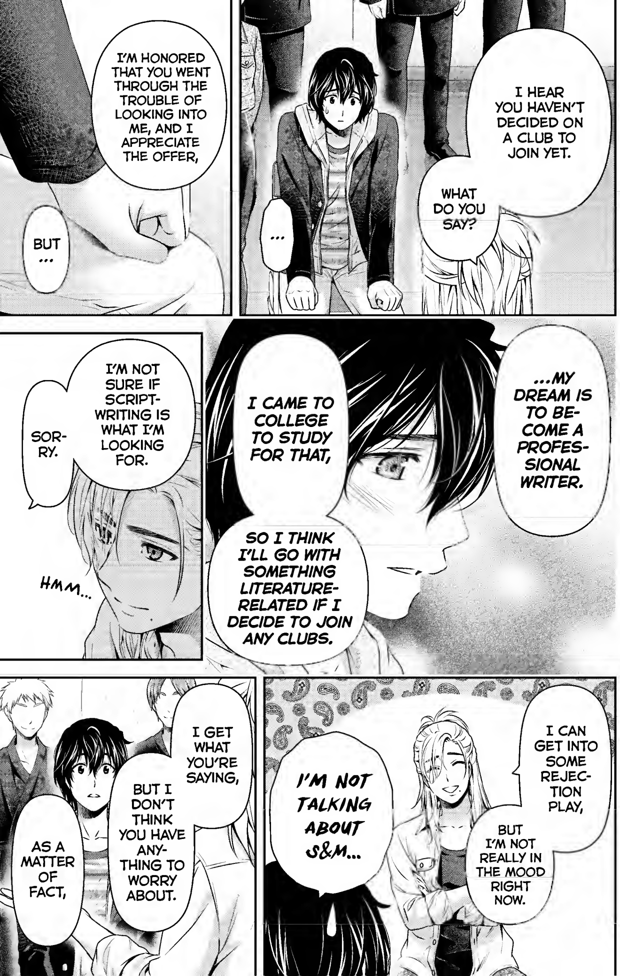

MRRRR!
NO NEED TO BE SO SCARED!
WE'RE NOT GONNA GOBBLE YOU UP OR ANY-THING.
MM MRF MM MRR MM MRRF! (WHY WOULDN'T I BE SCARED?!)
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET YOU BACK BEFORE THE SEMINAR!
HEY, GUYS! WE BROUGHT HIM!
BAM

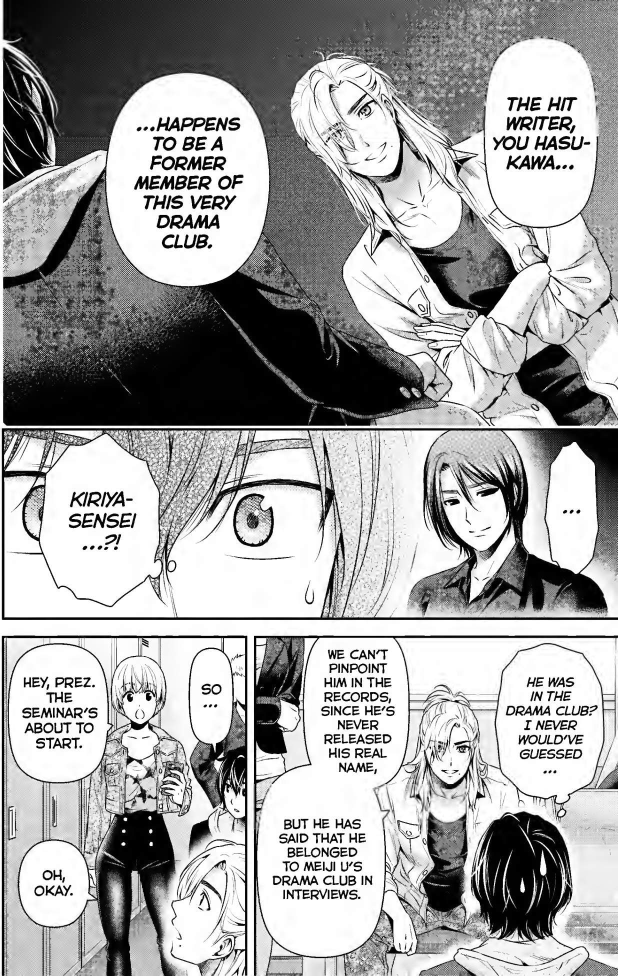

LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE STILL HARD AS A ROCK! WHAT A NAUGHTY BOY!
TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO TO YOU!
THANHYU VEWWY MUCH, MISHTRESS!
PLEAZ BREAK ME IN MORE!
HOW'S THAT?! YOU LIKE THAT?!
AAAH! IT HURTS!
SLAP
SLAP
I WANT YOU ALL TO TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THIS PIG!
BUT ID FEELTH SHO GOOD, MISH-TRESS!
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY!
STAND
すくっ

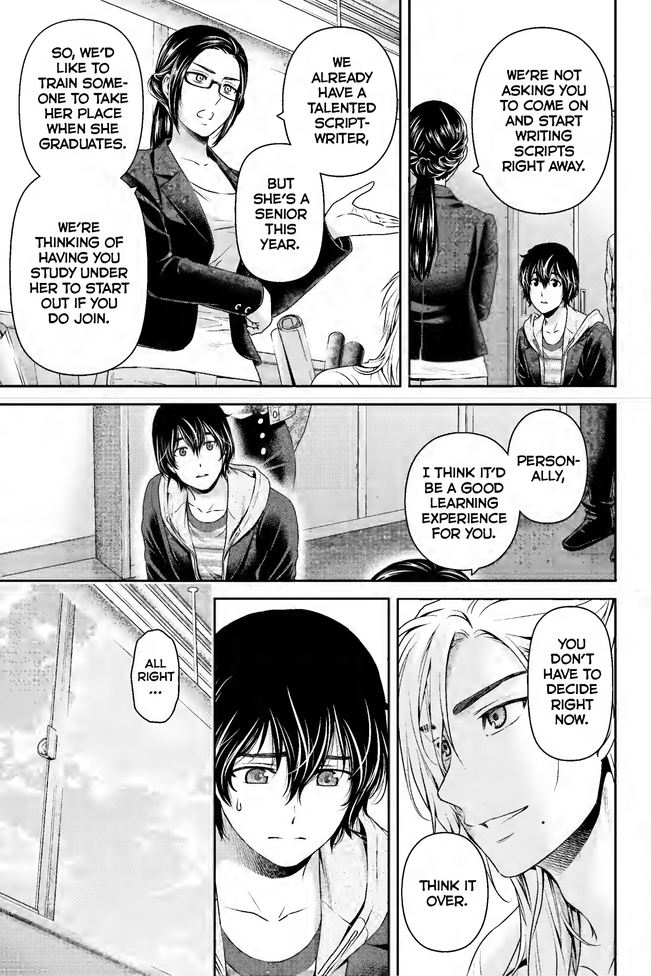

GREAT. YOU'VE GOTTEN MUCH BETTER.
DO IT JUST LIKE THAT ON OPENING NIGHT.
THANKS!
TAP
ツヤ
TAP
ツヤ
WELCOME TO OUR DRAMA CLUB, FORESTER!
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ENJOYING THEATER WITH US?!
NOT ONE BIT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER RIGHT AWAY!
WHY WOULD I BE INTERESTED AFTER BEING KIDNAPPED AND MADE TO WATCH THAT?!
TRUE, WE MAY HAVE BEEN A BIT ROUGH WITH YOU, BUT...

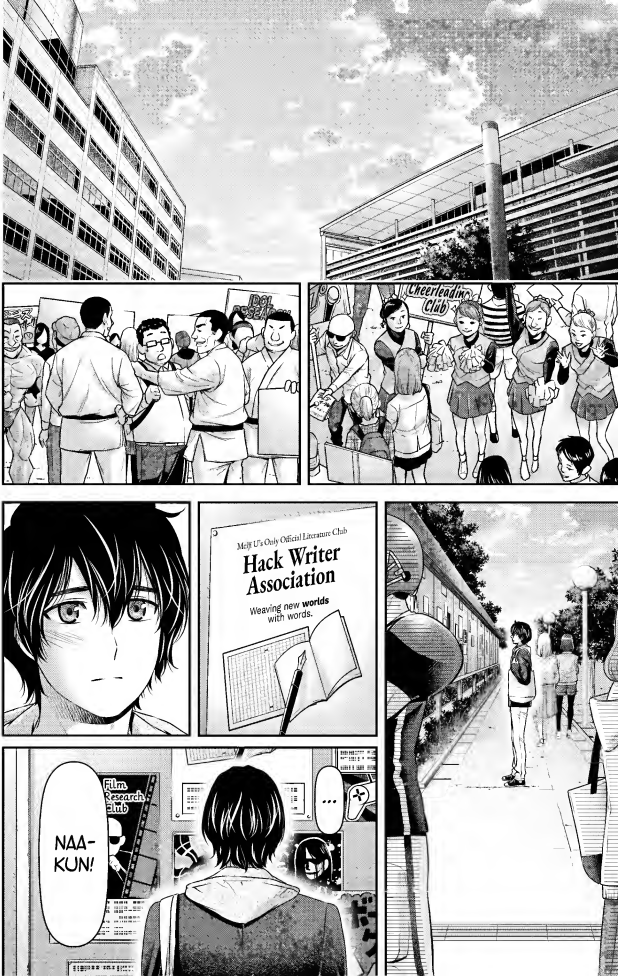

HEY, WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION?
WHO'S HE?
WE'RE RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS.
HUH?!
IN WHAT WORLD DOES ROLLING SOMEONE UP AND CARRYING THEM AWAY COUNT AS RECRUITMENT?!
PUT HIM DOWN BEFORE SOMEONE CALLS THE COPS ON US!
ゴホンッ
AHEM
UHH...
LET ME START OVER.
WE'RE FORESTER, MEIJI UNIVERSITY'S DRAMA CLUB.

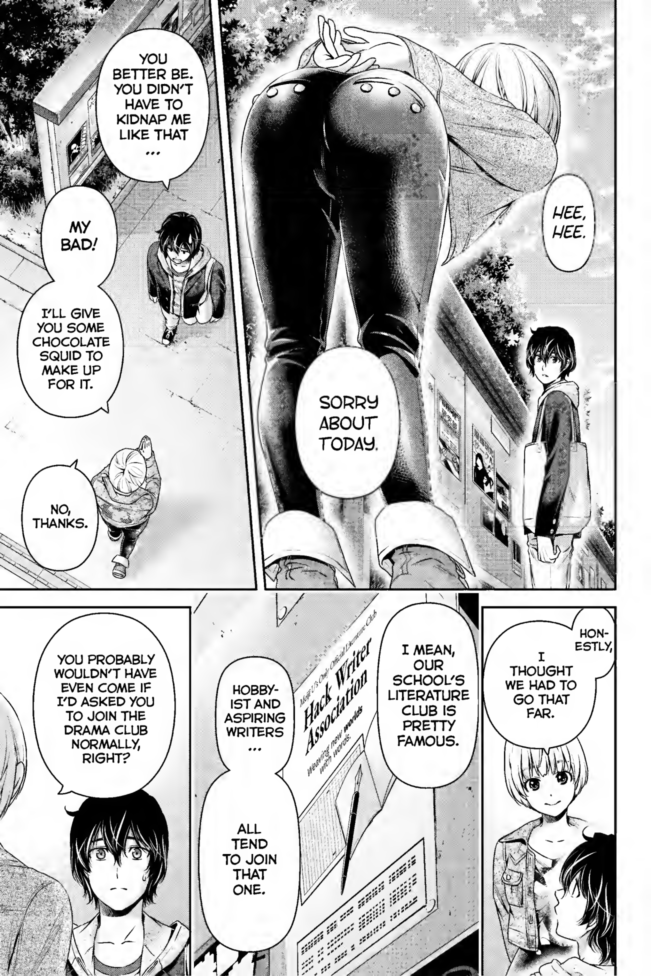

I'M THE CLUB PRESIDENT, RYUICHI NARA.
YOU CAN CALL ME NARA-SAN, PREZ, BITCH BOY, WHATEVER YOU WANT.
I'M GUESSING THAT MASOCHIST ROLE WASN'T JUST AN ACT...
THIS IS CHIKA AKIMOTO. SHE HANDLES GENERAL PRODUCTION.
THANK GOD SOME OF THEM ARE NORMAL!
AND LASTLY,
THE ONE WHO KIDNAPPED YOU IS MAO KINASHI. SHE'S IN CHARGE OF ADVERTISING.
YOU'RE NOT AN ACTOR?
NOPE. I WORK BEHIND THE SCENES.
MAO TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
SHE SAID SHE FOUND A PROMISING FRESHMAN WHO WON THE SHINKOSHA AWARD IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I WAS HOPING TO GET YOU TO COME ON AS A SCRIPTWRITER,
SO I HAD HER BRING YOU.

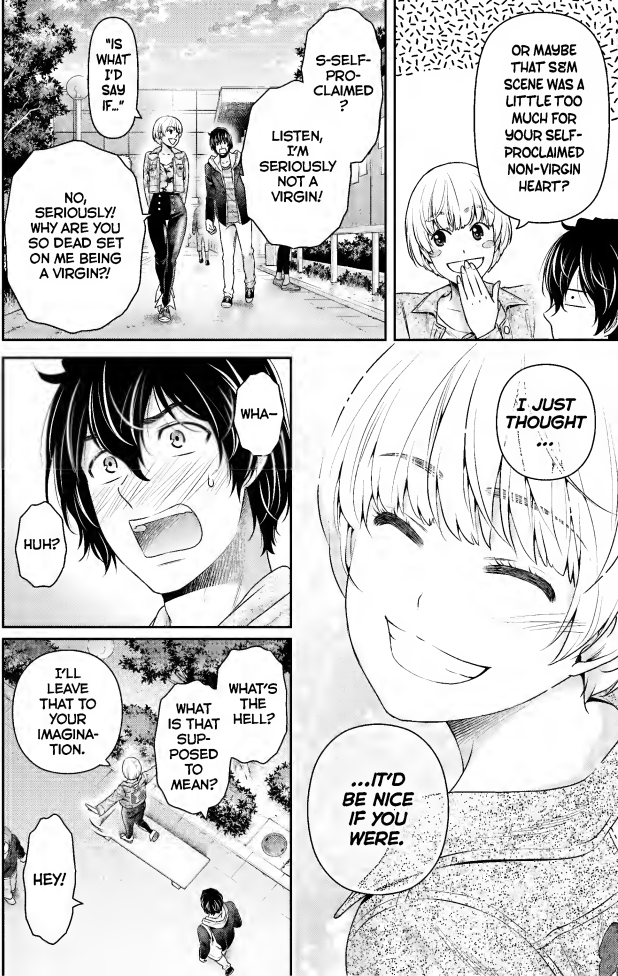

I HEAR YOU HAVEN'T DECIDED ON A CLUB TO JOIN YET.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
...
I'M HONORED THAT YOU WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF LOOKING INTO ME, AND I APPRECIATE THE OFFER,
BUT ...
...MY DREAM IS TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL WRITER.
I CAME TO COLLEGE TO STUDY FOR THAT,
SO I THINK I'LL GO WITH SOMETHING LITERATURE-RELATED IF I DECIDE TO JOIN ANY CLUBS.
I'M NOT SURE IF SCRIPT-WRITING IS WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.
SORRY.
HMM...
I CAN GET INTO SOME REJECTION PLAY,
BUT I'M NOT REALLY IN THE MOOD RIGHT NOW.
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT S&M...
I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING,
BUT I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
AS A MATTER OF FACT,

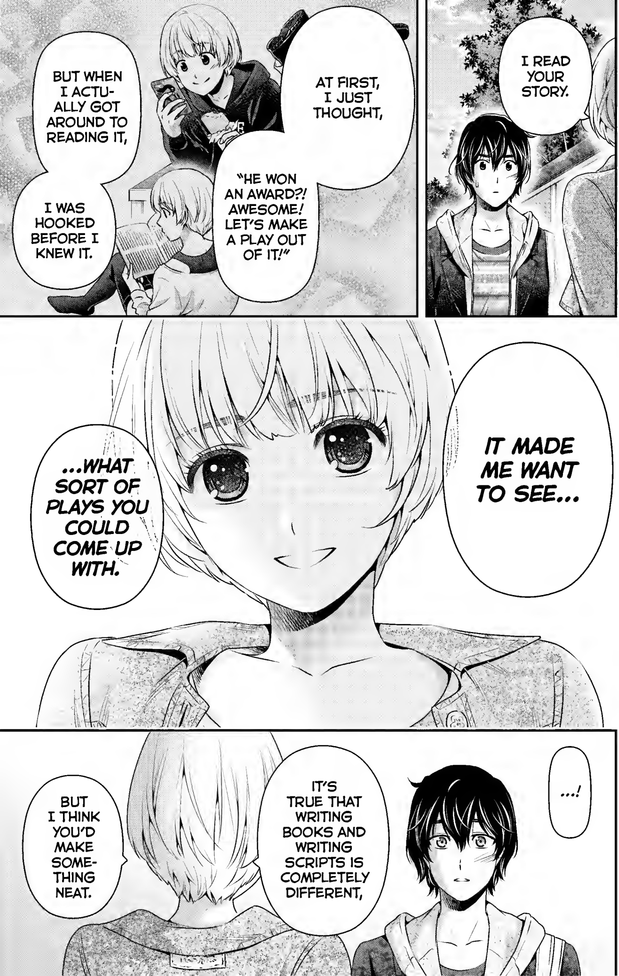

THE HIT WRITER, YOU HASUKAWA...
...HAPPENS TO BE A FORMER MEMBER OF THIS VERY DRAMA CLUB.
...
KIRIYA-SENSEI ...?!
HE WAS IN THE DRAMA CLUB? I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED ...
WE CAN'T PINPOINT HIM IN THE RECORDS, SINCE HE'S NEVER RELEASED HIS REAL NAME,
BUT HE HAS SAID THAT HE BELONGED TO MEIJI U'S DRAMA CLUB IN INTERVIEWS.
SO ...
HEY, PREZ. THE SEMINAR'S ABOUT TO START.
OH, OKAY.

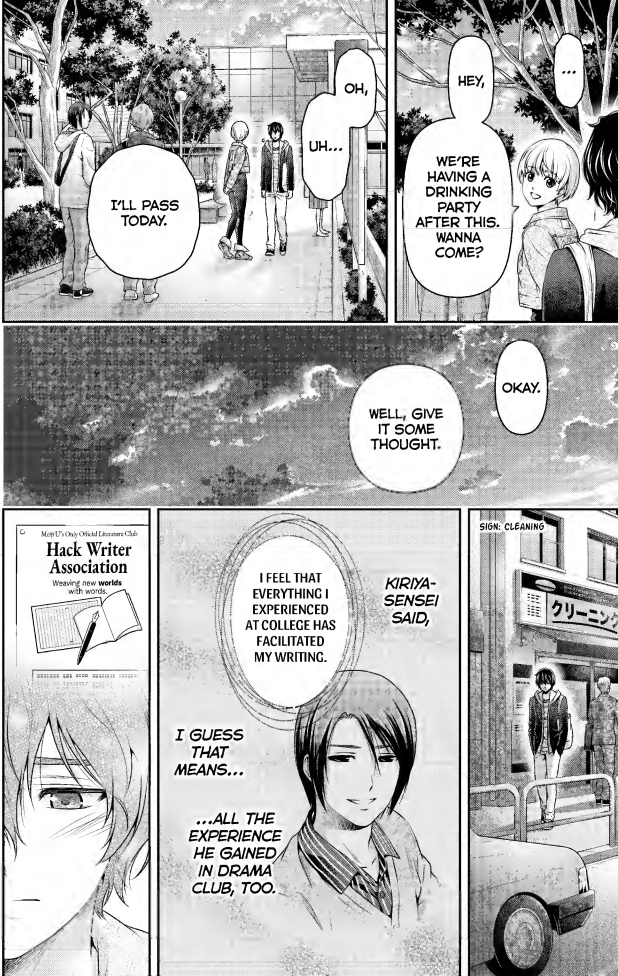

WE'RE NOT ASKING YOU TO COME ON AND START WRITING SCRIPTS RIGHT AWAY.
WE ALREADY HAVE A TALENTED SCRIPTWRITER,
BUT SHE'S A SENIOR THIS YEAR.
SO, WE'D LIKE TO TRAIN SOMEONE TO TAKE HER PLACE WHEN SHE GRADUATES.
WE'RE THINKING OF HAVING YOU STUDY UNDER HER TO START OUT IF YOU DO JOIN.
PERSONALLY,
I THINK IT'D BE A GOOD LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DECIDE RIGHT NOW.
THINK IT OVER.
ALL RIGHT ...

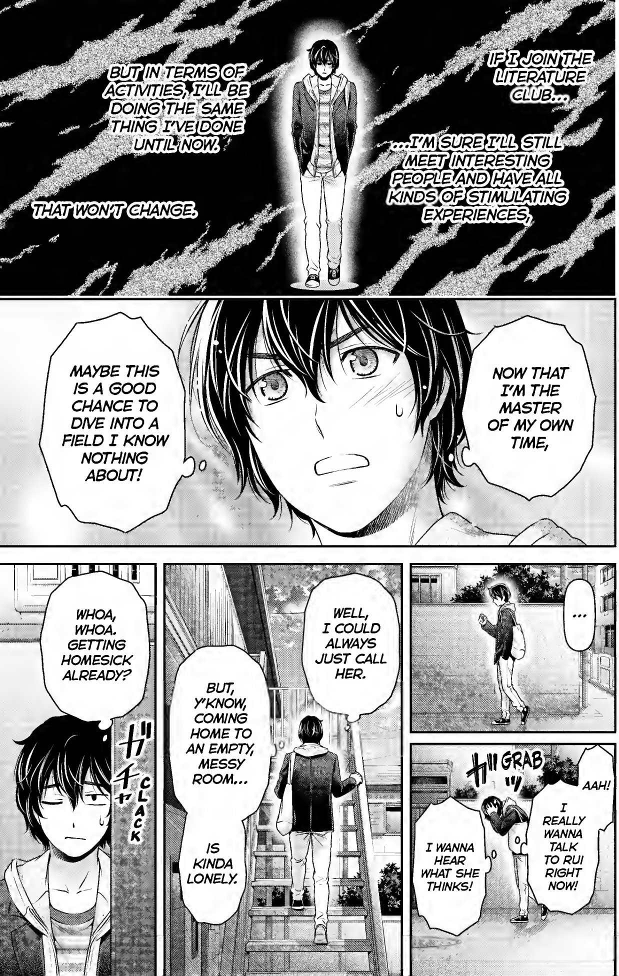

Cheerleading Club
IDOL RESEARCH
Meiji U's Only Official Literature Club
Hack Writer Association
Weaving new worlds with words.
...
NAA-KUN!
Film Research Club

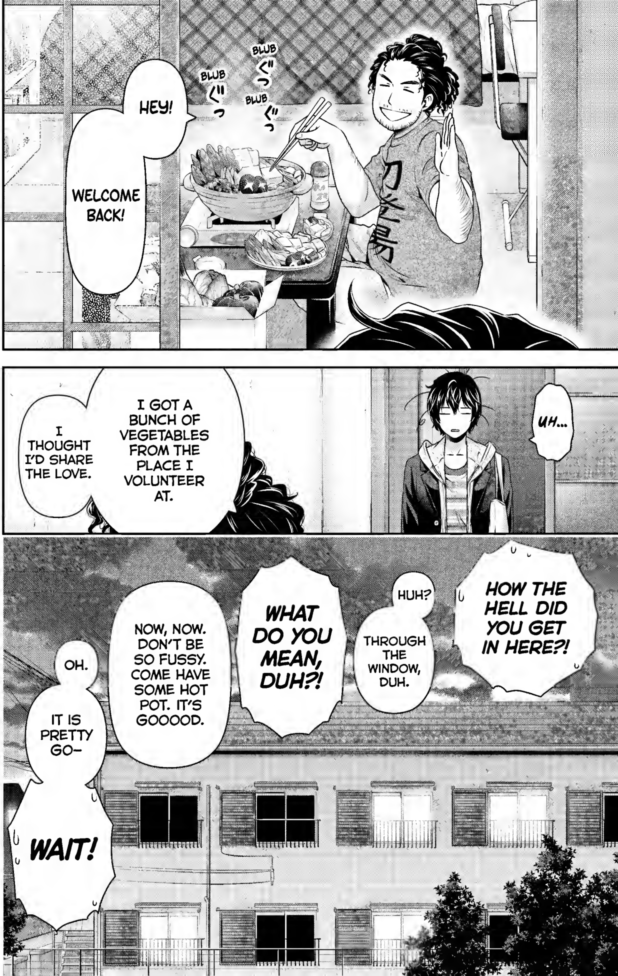

HEE, HEE.
SORRY ABOUT TODAY.
YOU BETTER BE. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO KIDNAP ME LIKE THAT ...
MY BAD!
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME CHOCOLATE SQUID TO MAKE UP FOR IT.
NO, THANKS.
HONESTLY, I THOUGHT WE HAD TO GO THAT FAR.
I MEAN, OUR SCHOOL'S LITERATURE CLUB IS PRETTY FAMOUS.
Meiji U's Only Official Literature Club
Hack Writer Association
Weaving new worlds with words.
HOBBYIST AND ASPIRING WRITERS ...
ALL TEND TO JOIN THAT ONE.
YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN COME IF I'D ASKED YOU TO JOIN THE DRAMA CLUB NORMALLY, RIGHT?


OR MAYBE THAT S&M SCENE WAS A LITTLE TOO MUCH FOR YOUR SELF-PROCLAIMED NON-VIRGIN HEART?
S-SELF-PROCLAIMED?
LISTEN, I'M SERIOUSLY NOT A VIRGIN!
NO, SERIOUSLY! WHY ARE YOU SO DEAD SET ON ME BEING A VIRGIN?!
"IS WHAT I'D SAY IF..."
I JUST THOUGHT...
...IT'D BE NICE IF YOU WERE.
WHA-
HUH?
WHAT'S THE HELL?
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOUR IMAGINATION.
HEY!

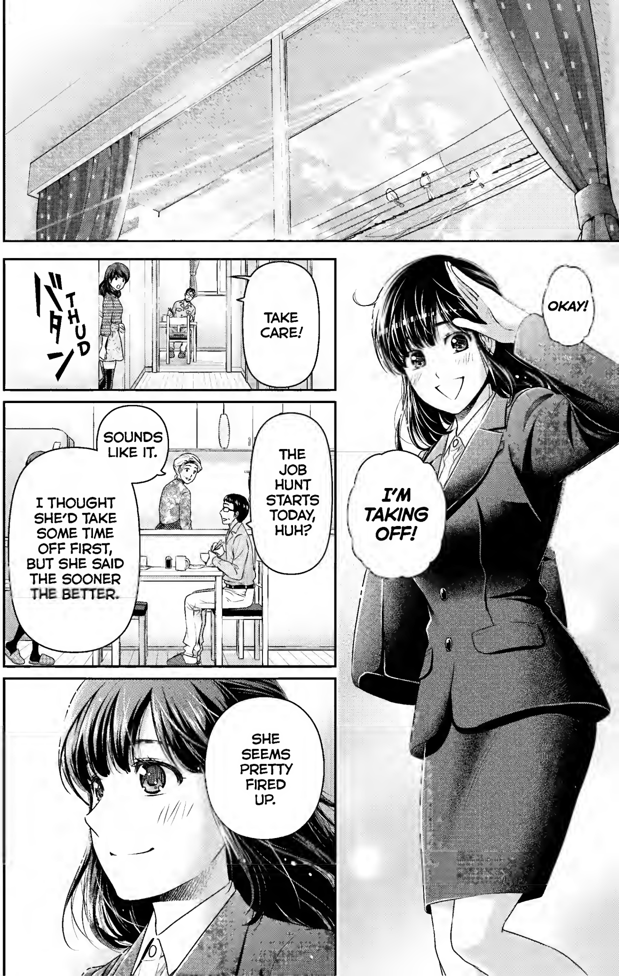

I READ YOUR STORY.
AT FIRST, I JUST THOUGHT,
"HE WON AN AWARD?! AWESOME! LET'S MAKE A PLAY OUT OF IT!"
BUT WHEN I ACTUALLY GOT AROUND TO READING IT,
I WAS HOOKED BEFORE I KNEW IT.
IT MADE ME WANT TO SEE...
...WHAT SORT OF PLAYS YOU COULD COME UP WITH.
...!
IT'S TRUE THAT WRITING BOOKS AND WRITING SCRIPTS IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT,
BUT I THINK YOU'D MAKE SOMETHING NEAT.

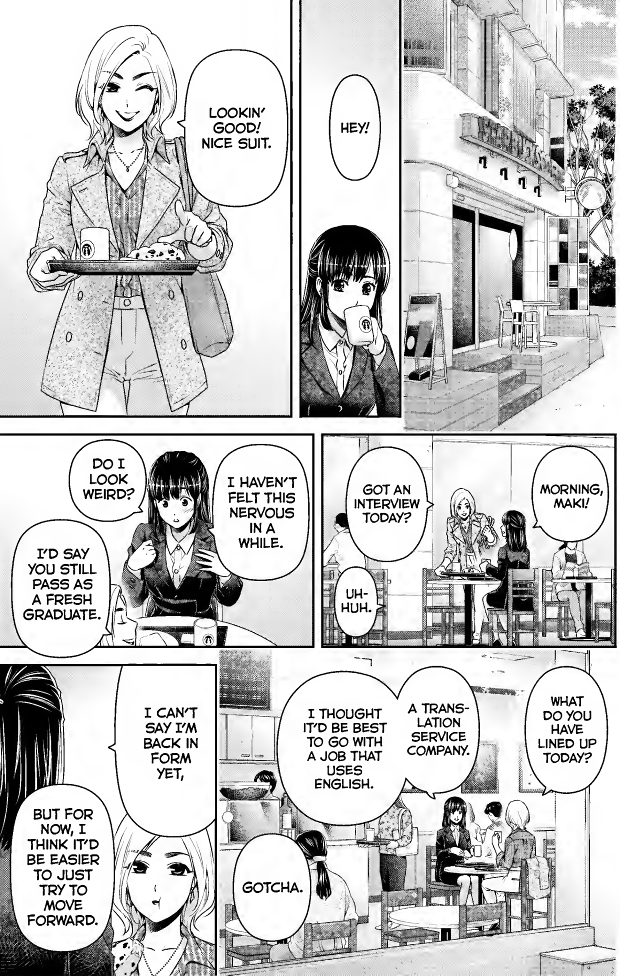

...
HEY,
WE'RE HAVING A DRINKING PARTY AFTER THIS. WANNA COME?
OH,
UH...
I'LL PASS TODAY.
OKAY.
WELL, GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT.
SIGN: CLEANING
クリーニンク
KIRIYA-SENSEI SAID,
I FEEL THAT EVERYTHING I EXPERIENCED AT COLLEGE HAS FACILITATED MY WRITING.
I GUESS THAT MEANS...
...ALL THE EXPERIENCE HE GAINED IN DRAMA CLUB, TOO.
Meiji U's Only Official Literature Club
Hack Writer Association
Weaving new worlds with words.

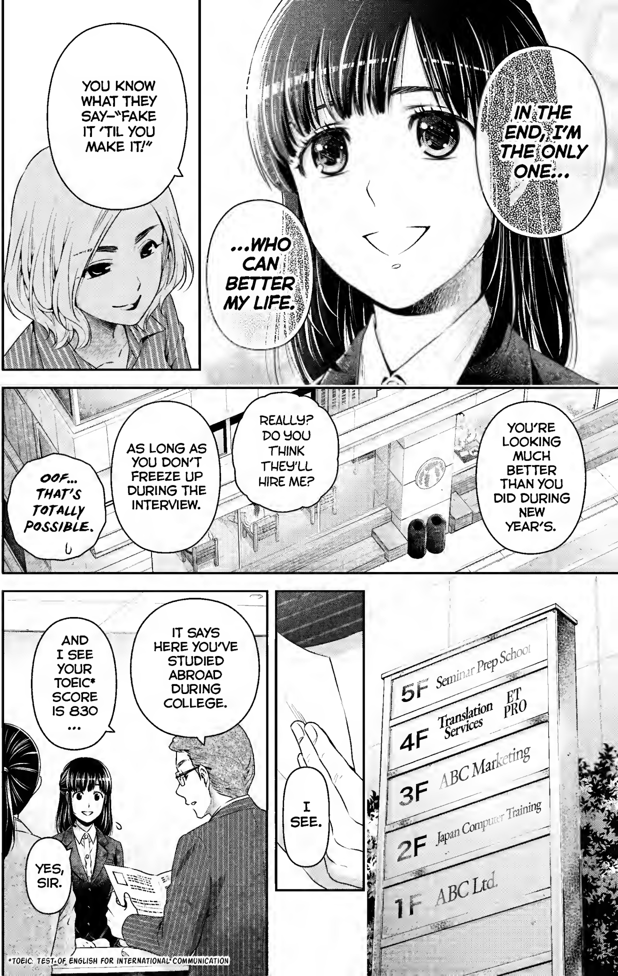

IF I JOIN THE LITERATURE CLUB...
...I'M SURE I'LL STILL MEET INTERESTING PEOPLE AND HAVE ALL KINDS OF STIMULATING EXPERIENCES,
BUT IN TERMS OF ACTIVITIES, I'LL BE DOING THE SAME THING I'VE DONE UNTIL NOW.
THAT WON'T CHANGE.
NOW THAT I'M THE MASTER OF MY OWN TIME,
MAYBE THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE TO DIVE INTO A FIELD I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT!
...
ガッ GRAB
AAH! I REALLY WANNA TALK TO RUI RIGHT NOW!
I WANNA HEAR WHAT SHE THINKS!
WELL, I COULD ALWAYS JUST CALL HER.
BUT, Y'KNOW, COMING HOME TO AN EMPTY, MESSY ROOM...
IS KINDA LONELY.
ガチャ CLACK
WHOA, WHOA. GETTING HOMESICK ALREADY?


BLUB ぐっ
BLUB ぐっ
BLUB ぐっ
HEY!
WELCOME BACK!
UH...
I GOT A BUNCH OF VEGETABLES FROM THE PLACE I VOLUNTEER AT.
I THOUGHT I'D SHARE THE LOVE.
HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET IN HERE?!
HUH?
THROUGH THE WINDOW, DUH.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DUH?!
NOW, NOW. DON'T BE SO FUSSY. COME HAVE SOME HOT POT. IT'S GOOOOD.
OH.
IT IS PRETTY GO–
WAIT!

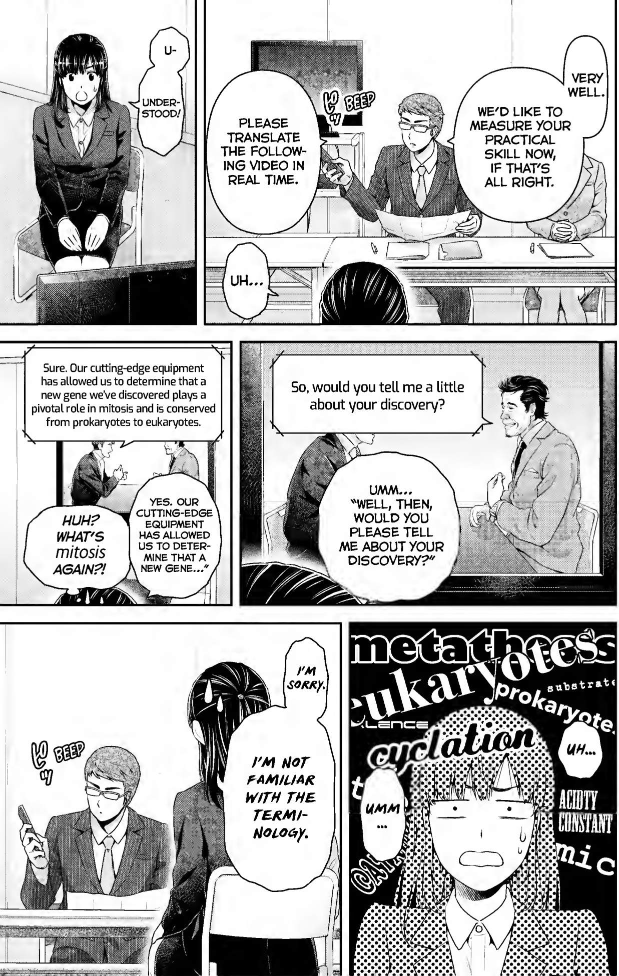
CHAPTER 140: JOB HUNTING

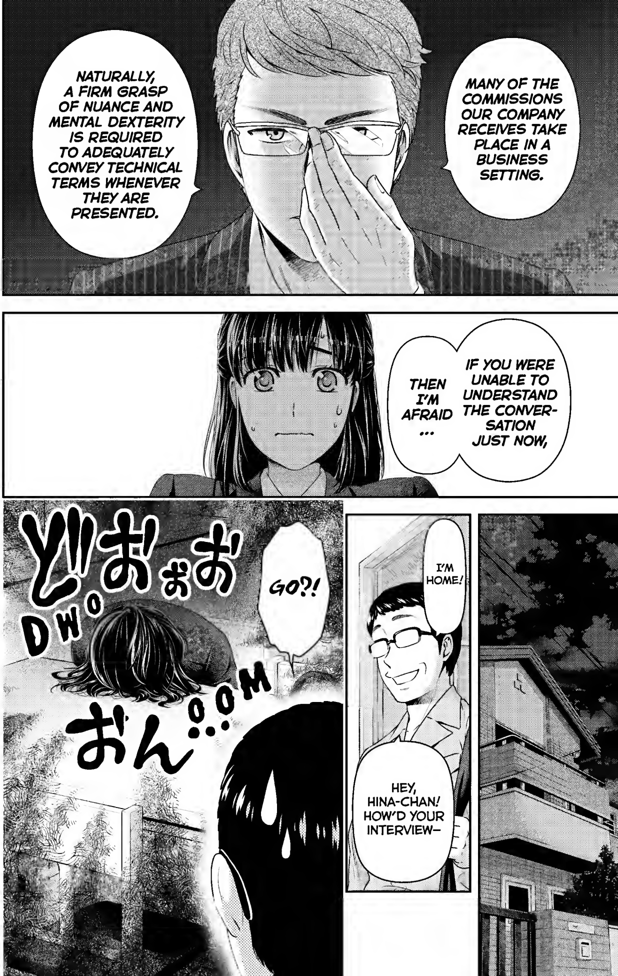

OKAY!
I'M TAKING OFF!
TAKE CARE!
バタン THUD
THE JOB HUNT STARTS TODAY, HUH?
SOUNDS LIKE IT.
I THOUGHT SHE'D TAKE SOME TIME OFF FIRST, BUT SHE SAID THE SOONER THE BETTER.
SHE SEEMS PRETTY FIRED UP.

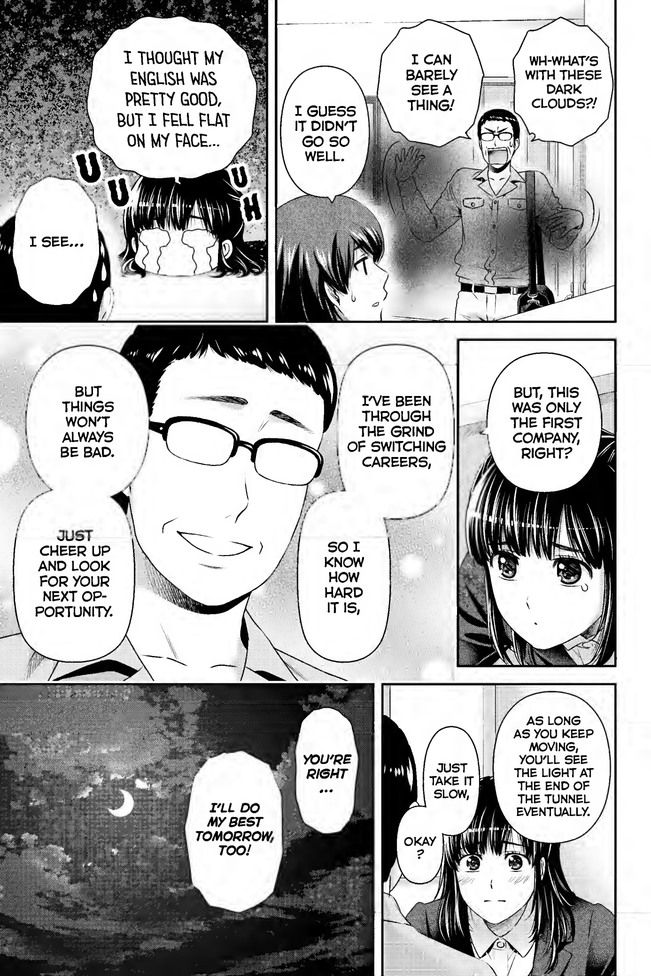

HEY!
LOOKIN' GOOD! NICE SUIT.
MORNING, MAKI!
GOT AN INTERVIEW TODAY?
UH-HUH.
I HAVEN'T FELT THIS NERVOUS IN A WHILE.
DO I LOOK WEIRD?
I'D SAY YOU STILL PASS AS A FRESH GRADUATE.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE LINED UP TODAY?
A TRANSLATION SERVICE COMPANY.
I THOUGHT IT'D BE BEST TO GO WITH A JOB THAT USES ENGLISH.
GOTCHA.
I CAN'T SAY I'M BACK IN FORM YET,
BUT FOR NOW, I THINK IT'D BE EASIER TO JUST TRY TO MOVE FORWARD.

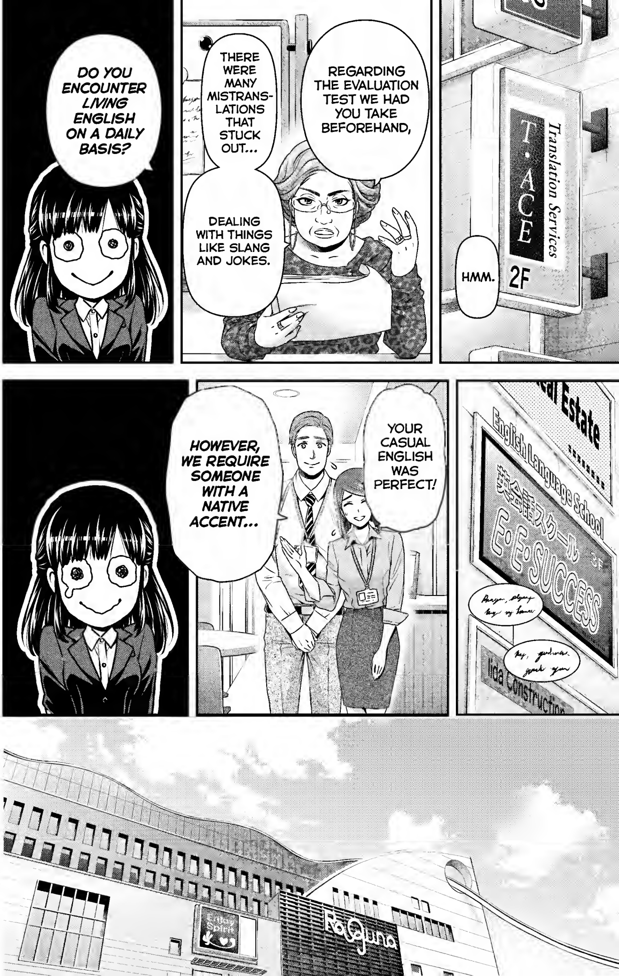

IN THE END, I'M THE ONLY ONE...
...WHO CAN BETTER MY LIFE.
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY—"FAKE IT 'TIL YOU MAKE IT!"
YOU'RE LOOKING MUCH BETTER THAN YOU DID DURING NEW YEAR'S.
REALLY? DO YOU THINK THEY'LL HIRE ME?
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T FREEZE UP DURING THE INTERVIEW.
OOF... THAT'S TOTALLY POSSIBLE.
5F Seminar Prep School
4F Translation Services ET PRO
3F ABC Marketing
2F Japan Computer Training
1F ABC Ltd.
I SEE.
IT SAYS HERE YOU'VE STUDIED ABROAD DURING COLLEGE.
AND I SEE YOUR TOEIC* SCORE IS 830...
YES, SIR.

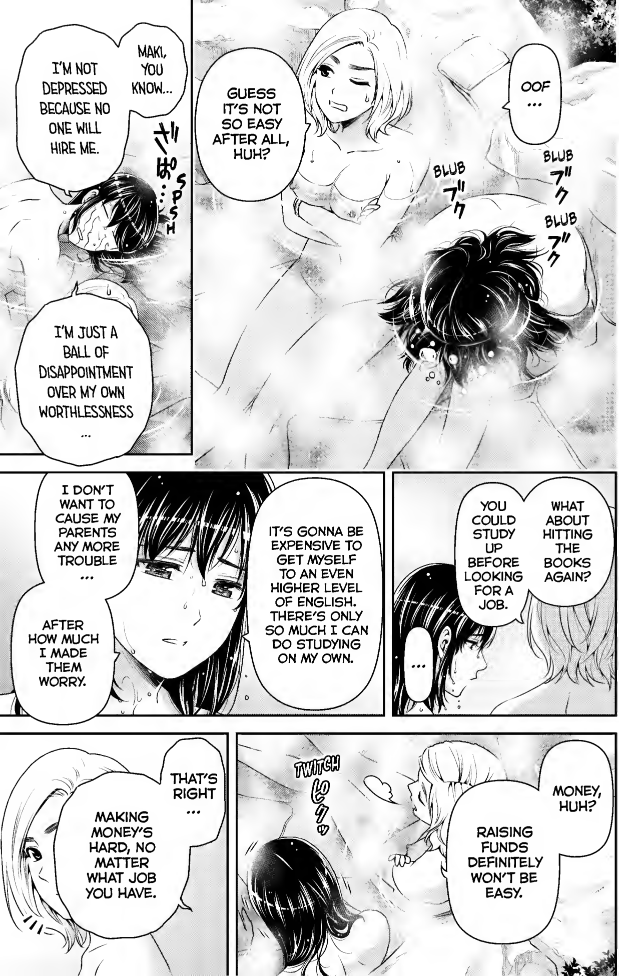
*TOEIC: TEST OF ENGLISH FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

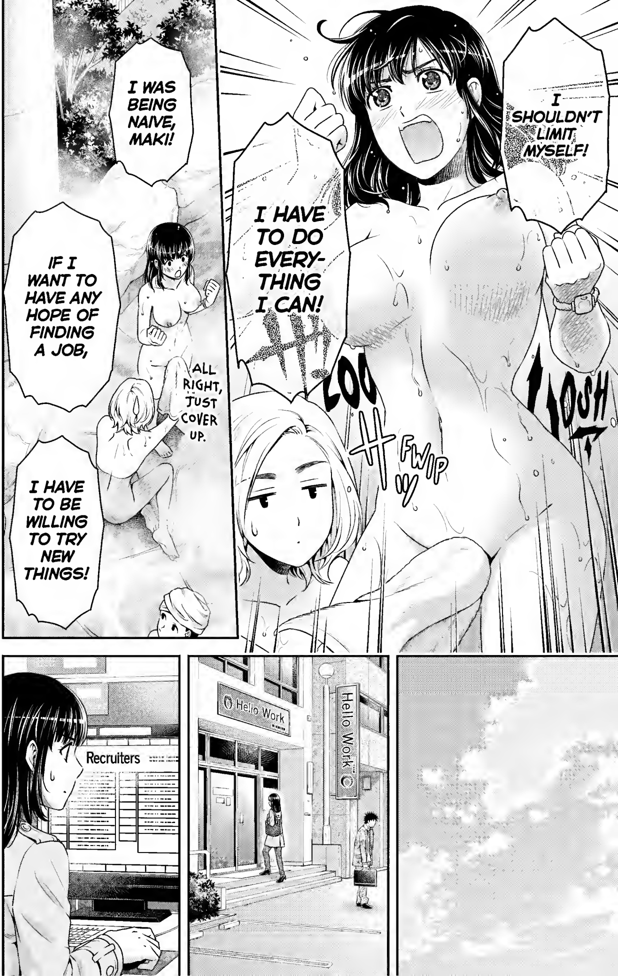

VERY WELL.
WE'D LIKE TO MEASURE YOUR PRACTICAL SKILL NOW, IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
BEEP
PLEASE TRANSLATE THE FOLLOWING VIDEO IN REAL TIME.
UH...
U-
UNDERSTOOD!
So, would you tell me a little about your discovery?
UMM... "WELL, THEN, WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT YOUR DISCOVERY?"
Sure. Our cutting-edge equipment has allowed us to determine that a new gene we've discovered plays a pivotal role in mitosis and is conserved from prokaryotes to eukaryotes.
YES. OUR CUTTING-EDGE EQUIPMENT HAS ALLOWED US TO DETERMINE THAT A NEW GENE..."
HUH? WHAT'S mitosis AGAIN?!
metathess
eukaryotes
substrate
prokaryotes
LENCE
cyclation
ACIDTY CONSTANT
mic
UH...
UMM...
I'M SORRY.
I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE TERMINOLOGY.
BEEP

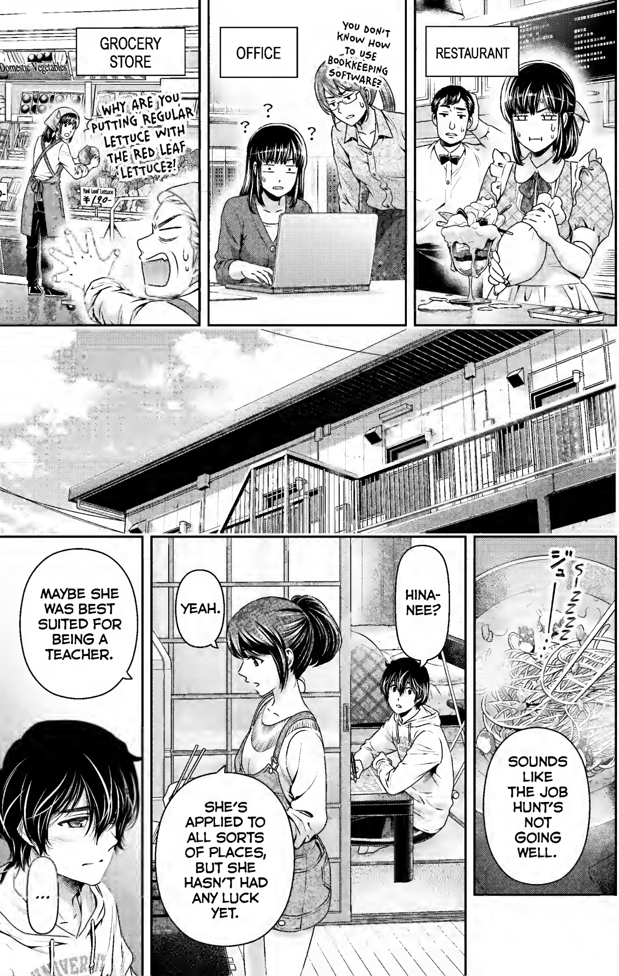

MANY OF THE COMMISSIONS OUR COMPANY RECEIVES TAKE PLACE IN A BUSINESS SETTING.
NATURALLY, A FIRM GRASP OF NUANCE AND MENTAL DEXTERITY IS REQUIRED TO ADEQUATELY CONVEY TECHNICAL TERMS WHENEVER THEY ARE PRESENTED.
IF YOU WERE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE CONVERSATION JUST NOW,
THEN I'M AFRAID...
I'M HOME!
HEY, HINA-CHAN! HOW'D YOUR INTERVIEW—
GO?!
ど!!おぉお
DWO
おん
OOM

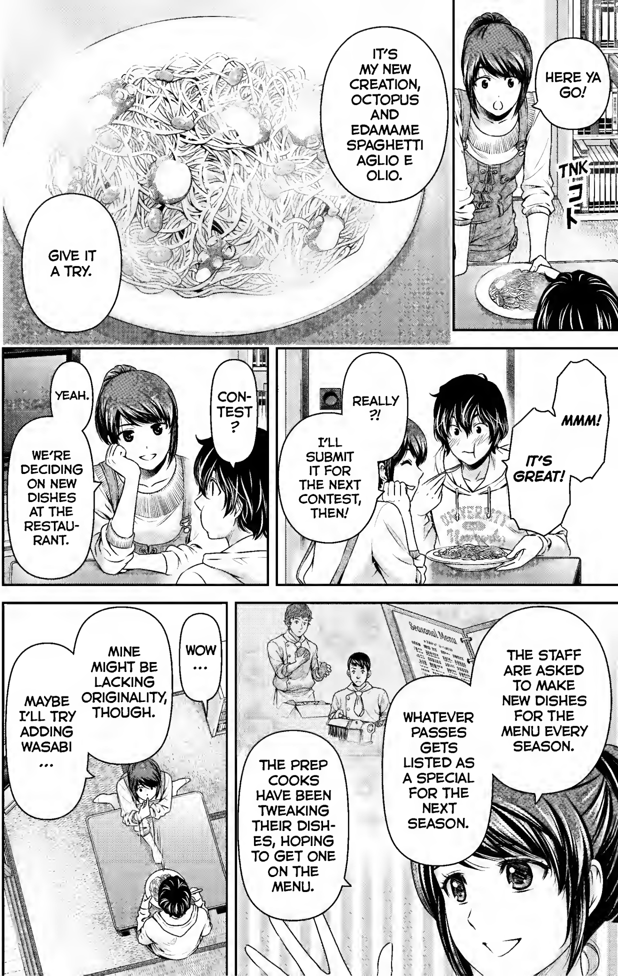

WH-WHAT'S WITH THESE DARK CLOUDS?!
I CAN BARELY SEE A THING!
I GUESS IT DIDN'T GO SO WELL.
I THOUGHT MY ENGLISH WAS PRETTY GOOD, BUT I FELL FLAT ON MY FACE...
UUUH
I SEE...
BUT, THIS WAS ONLY THE FIRST COMPANY, RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN THROUGH THE GRIND OF SWITCHING CAREERS,
SO I KNOW HOW HARD IT IS,
BUT THINGS WON'T ALWAYS BE BAD.
JUST CHEER UP AND LOOK FOR YOUR NEXT OPPORTUNITY.
AS LONG AS YOU KEEP MOVING, YOU'LL SEE THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL EVENTUALLY.
JUST TAKE IT SLOW,
OKAY?
YOU'RE RIGHT...
I'LL DO MY BEST TOMORROW, TOO!

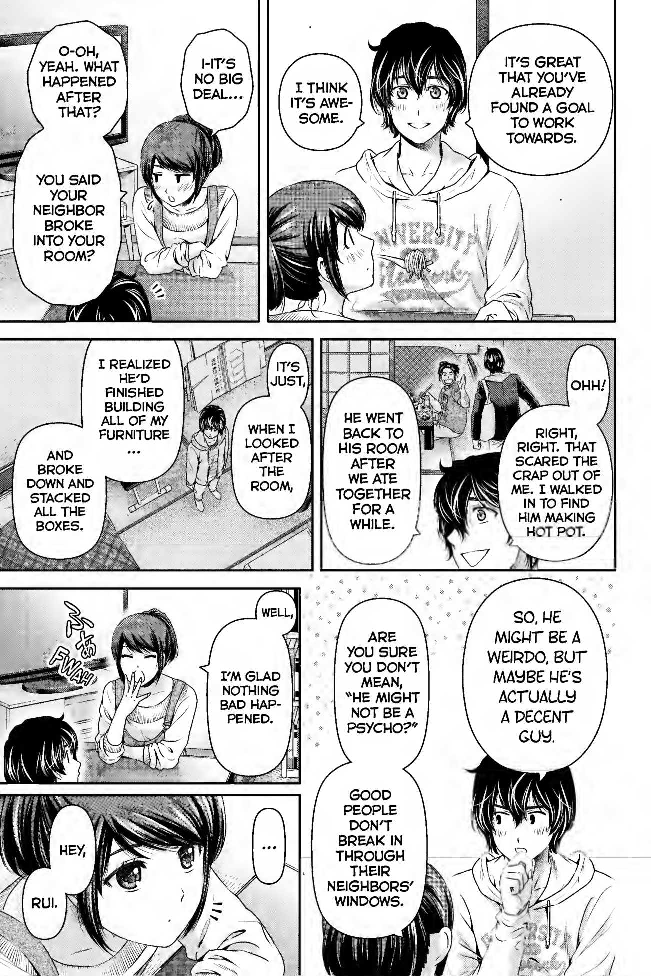

T·ACE
Translation Services
2F
HMM.
REGARDING THE EVALUATION TEST WE HAD YOU TAKE BEFOREHAND,
THERE WERE MANY MISTRANSLATIONS THAT STUCK OUT...
DEALING WITH THINGS LIKE SLANG AND JOKES.
DO YOU ENCOUNTER *LIVING* ENGLISH ON A DAILY BASIS?
al Estate
English Language School
英会話スクール
E·E·SUCCESS
3F
Iida Construction
YOUR CASUAL ENGLISH WAS PERFECT!
HOWEVER, WE REQUIRE SOMEONE WITH A NATIVE ACCENT...
Enjoy Spirit
RaQuna

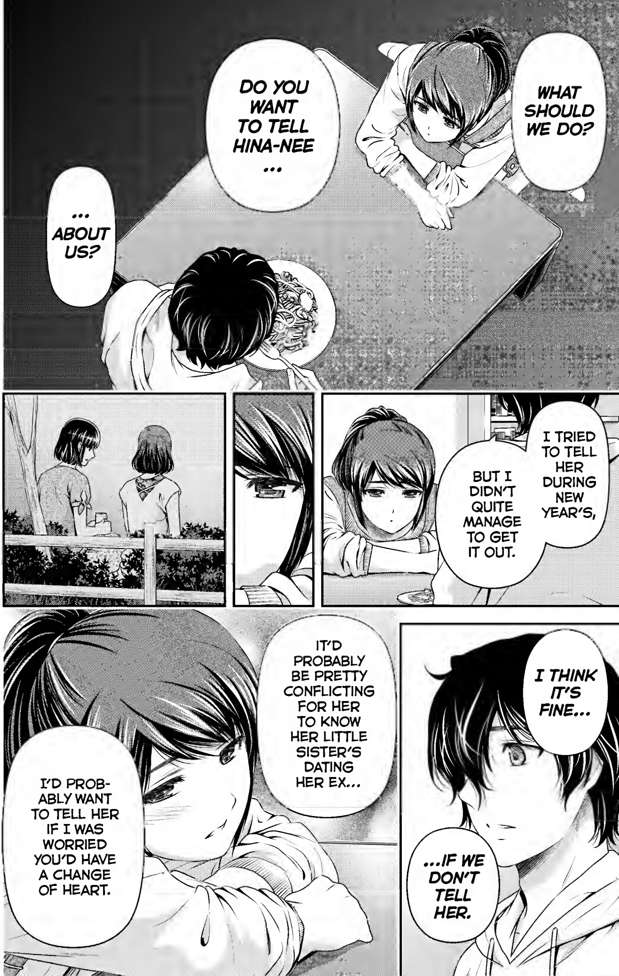

OOF ...
BLUB ブク
BLUB ブク
BLUB ブク
GUESS IT'S NOT SO EASY AFTER ALL, HUH?
MAKI, YOU KNOW...
I'M NOT DEPRESSED BECAUSE NO ONE WILL HIRE ME.
SPSH ざばっ
I'M JUST A BALL OF DISAPPOINTMENT OVER MY OWN WORTHLESSNESS ...
WHAT ABOUT HITTING THE BOOKS AGAIN?
YOU COULD STUDY UP BEFORE LOOKING FOR A JOB.
...
IT'S GONNA BE EXPENSIVE TO GET MYSELF TO AN EVEN HIGHER LEVEL OF ENGLISH. THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH I CAN DO STUDYING ON MY OWN.
I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE MY PARENTS ANY MORE TROUBLE ...
AFTER HOW MUCH I MADE THEM WORRY.
MONEY, HUH?
RAISING FUNDS DEFINITELY WON'T BE EASY.
TWITCH ピクッ
THAT'S RIGHT ...
MAKING MONEY'S HARD, NO MATTER WHAT JOB YOU HAVE.

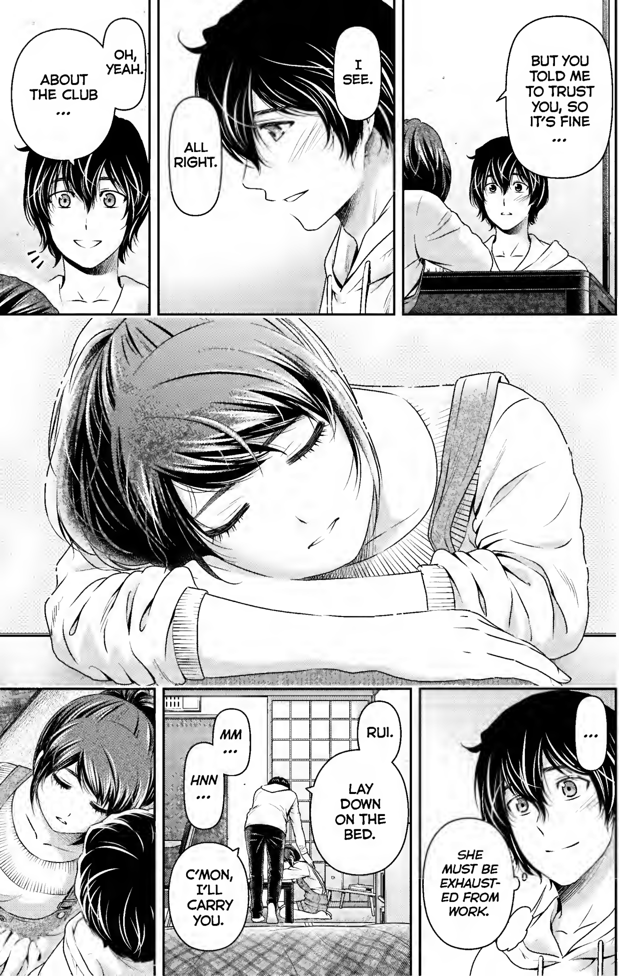

I SHOULDN'T LIMIT MYSELF!
I HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN!
FWIP
I WAS BEING NAIVE, MAKI!
IF I WANT TO HAVE ANY HOPE OF FINDING A JOB,
ALL RIGHT, JUST COVER UP.
I HAVE TO BE WILLING TO TRY NEW THINGS!
Hello Work
Hello Work
Recruiters

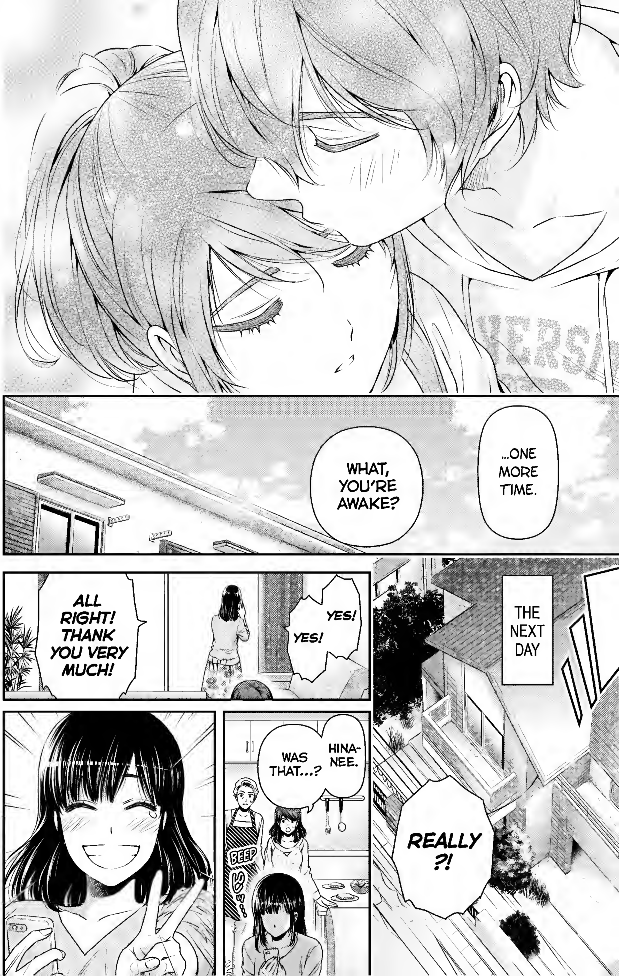

RESTAURANT
OFFICE
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE BOOKKEEPING SOFTWARE?
? ? ?
GROCERY STORE
Domestic Vegetables
WHY ARE YOU PUTTING REGULAR LETTUCE WITH THE RED LEAF LETTUCE?!
Red Leaf Lettuce ¥190-
ジュ S-ZZZZZ
SOUNDS LIKE THE JOB HUNT'S NOT GOING WELL.
HINA-NEE?
YEAH.
SHE'S APPLIED TO ALL SORTS OF PLACES, BUT SHE HASN'T HAD ANY LUCK YET.
MAYBE SHE WAS BEST SUITED FOR BEING A TEACHER.
...

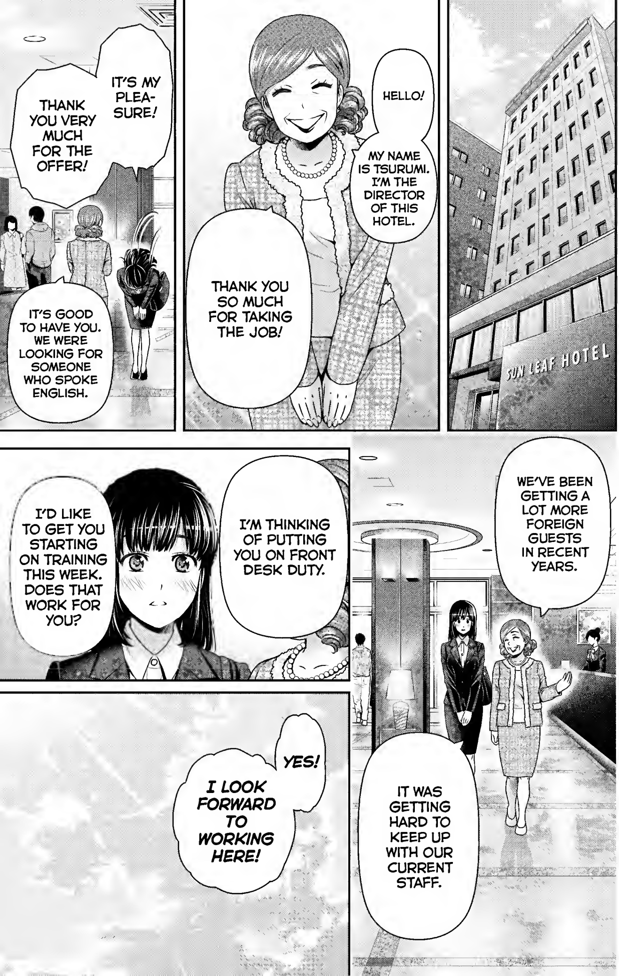

HERE YA GO!
TNK
コト
IT'S MY NEW CREATION, OCTOPUS AND EDAMAME SPAGHETTI AGLIO E OLIO.
GIVE IT A TRY.
MMM!
IT'S GREAT!
REALLY?!
I'LL SUBMIT IT FOR THE NEXT CONTEST, THEN!
CONTEST?
YEAH.
WE'RE DECIDING ON NEW DISHES AT THE RESTAURANT.
Seasonal Menu
THE STAFF ARE ASKED TO MAKE NEW DISHES FOR THE MENU EVERY SEASON.
WHATEVER PASSES GETS LISTED AS A SPECIAL FOR THE NEXT SEASON.
THE PREP COOKS HAVE BEEN TWEAKING THEIR DISHES, HOPING TO GET ONE ON THE MENU.
WOW...
MINE MIGHT BE LACKING ORIGINALITY, THOUGH.
MAYBE I'LL TRY ADDING WASABI...

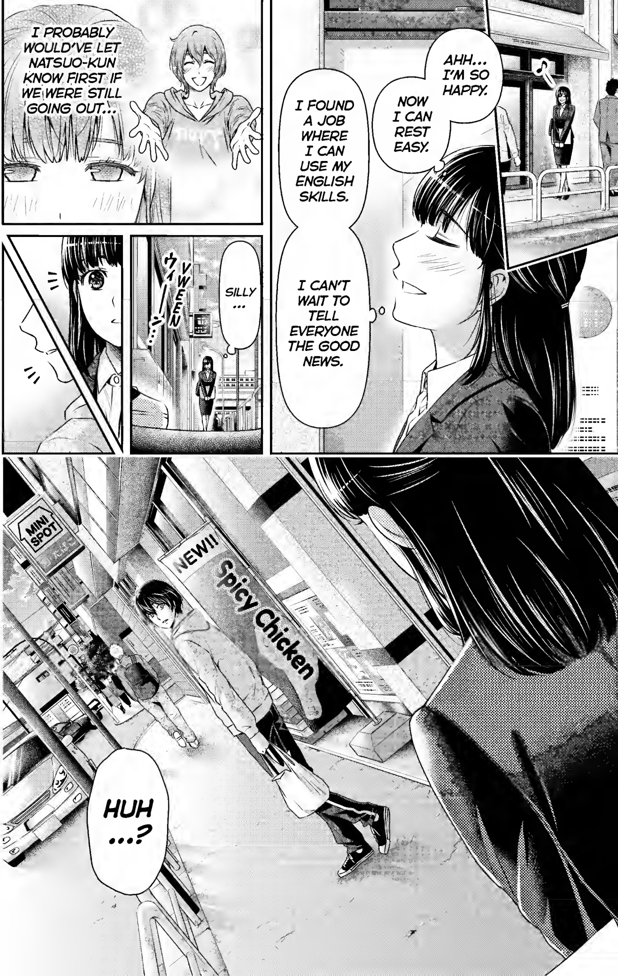

IT'S GREAT THAT YOU'VE ALREADY FOUND A GOAL TO WORK TOWARDS.
I THINK IT'S AWESOME.
I-IT'S NO BIG DEAL...
O-OH, YEAH. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
YOU SAID YOUR NEIGHBOR BROKE INTO YOUR ROOM?
OHH!
RIGHT, RIGHT. THAT SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME. I WALKED IN TO FIND HIM MAKING HOT POT.
HE WENT BACK TO HIS ROOM AFTER WE ATE TOGETHER FOR A WHILE.
IT'S JUST,
WHEN I LOOKED AFTER THE ROOM,
I REALIZED HE'D FINISHED BUILDING ALL OF MY FURNITURE ...
AND BROKE DOWN AND STACKED ALL THE BOXES.
SO, HE MIGHT BE A WEIRDO, BUT MAYBE HE'S ACTUALLY A DECENT GUY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T MEAN, "HE MIGHT NOT BE A PSYCHO?"
GOOD PEOPLE DON'T BREAK IN THROUGH THEIR NEIGHBORS' WINDOWS.
WELL,
I'M GLAD NOTHING BAD HAPPENED.
ふあ
FWAH
...
HEY,
RUI.


WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
DO YOU WANT TO TELL HINA-NEE ...
... ABOUT US?
I TRIED TO TELL HER DURING NEW YEAR'S,
BUT I DIDN'T QUITE MANAGE TO GET IT OUT.
I THINK IT'S FINE...
...IF WE DON'T TELL HER.
IT'D PROBABLY BE PRETTY CONFLICTING FOR HER TO KNOW HER LITTLE SISTER'S DATING HER EX...
I'D PROBABLY WANT TO TELL HER IF I WAS WORRIED YOU'D HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART.

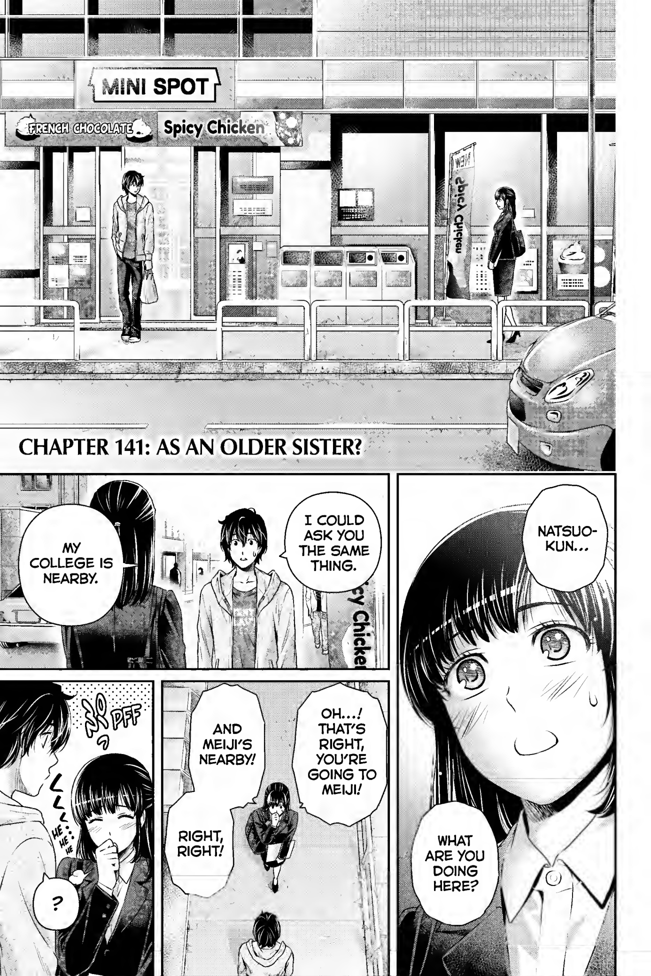

BUT YOU TOLD ME TO TRUST YOU, SO IT'S FINE ...
I SEE.
ALL RIGHT.
OH, YEAH.
ABOUT THE CLUB ...
...
SHE MUST BE EXHAUSTED FROM WORK.
RUI.
LAY DOWN ON THE BED.
MM ...
HNN ...
C'MON, I'LL CARRY YOU.

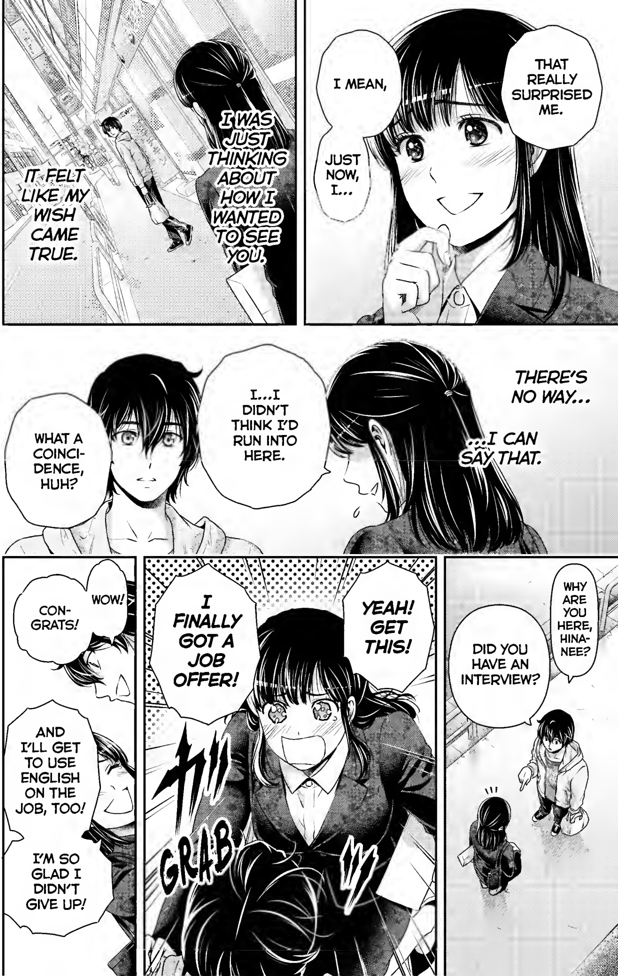

VERSA
...ONE MORE TIME.
WHAT, YOU'RE AWAKE?
THE NEXT DAY
REALLY ?!
YES!
YES!
ALL RIGHT! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
HINA-NEE.
WAS THAT...?
BEEP
ピッ…

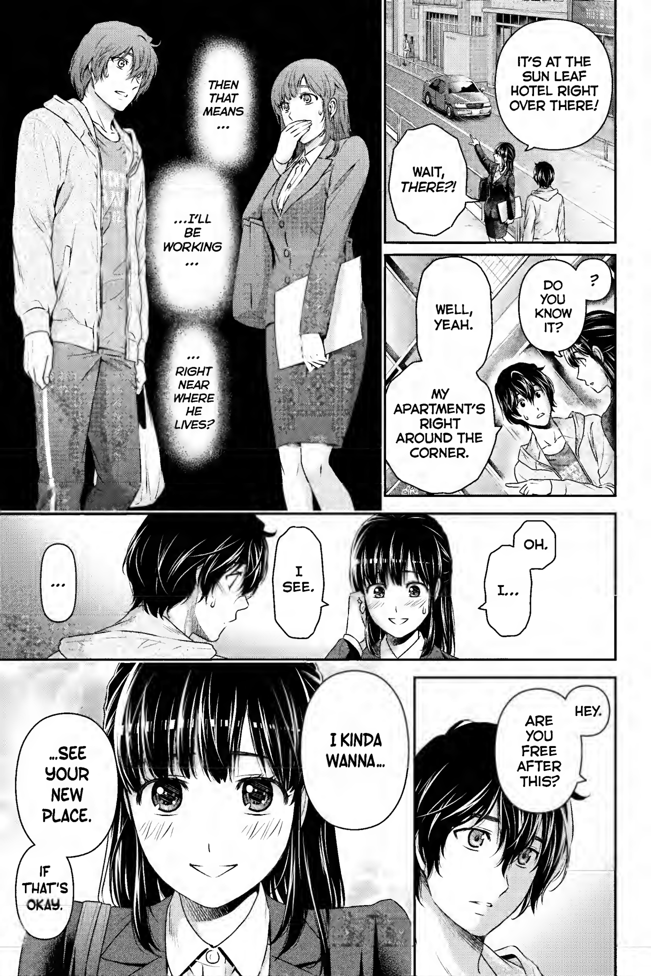

SUN LEAF HOTEL
HELLO!
MY NAME IS TSURUMI. I'M THE DIRECTOR OF THIS HOTEL.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING THE JOB!
IT'S MY PLEASURE!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE OFFER!
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU. WE WERE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO SPOKE ENGLISH.
WE'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT MORE FOREIGN GUESTS IN RECENT YEARS.
IT WAS GETTING HARD TO KEEP UP WITH OUR CURRENT STAFF.
I'M THINKING OF PUTTING YOU ON FRONT DESK DUTY.
I'D LIKE TO GET YOU STARTING ON TRAINING THIS WEEK. DOES THAT WORK FOR YOU?
YES!
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING HERE!

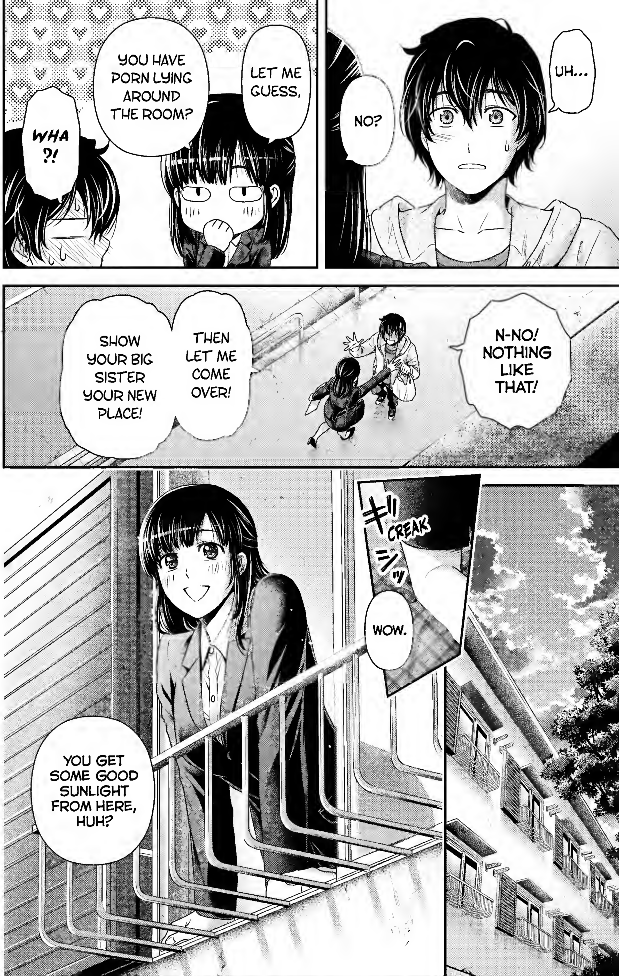

AHH... I'M SO HAPPY.
NOW I CAN REST EASY.
I FOUND A JOB WHERE I CAN USE MY ENGLISH SKILLS.
I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL EVERYONE THE GOOD NEWS.
I PROBABLY WOULD'VE LET NATSUO-KUN KNOW FIRST IF WE WERE STILL GOING OUT...
SILLY...
ウィーン…
VWEEN
MINI SPOT
NEW!!
Spicy Chicken
HUH...?

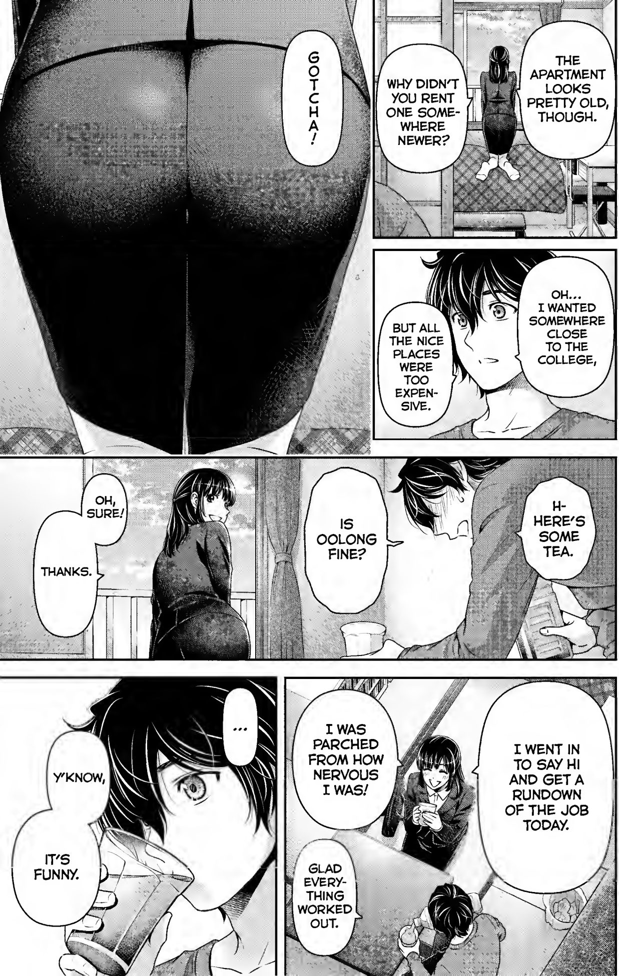
CHAPTER 141: AS AN OLDER SISTER?

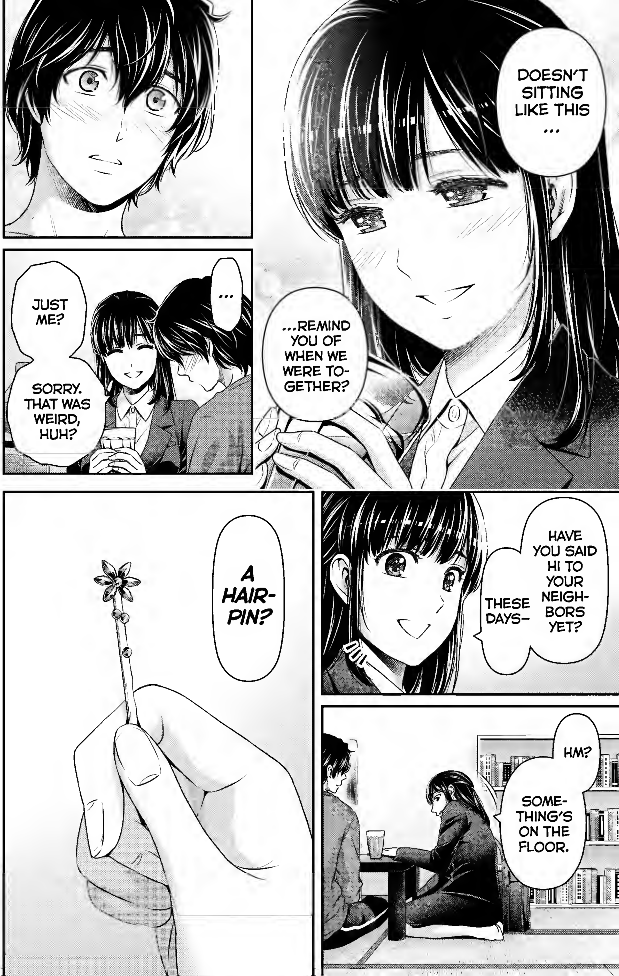

MINI SPOT
FRENCH CHOCOLATE
Spicy Chicken
NEW
Spicy Chicken
NATSUO-KUN...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME THING.
Spicy Chicken
MY COLLEGE IS NEARBY.
OH...! THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE GOING TO MEIJI!
AND MEIJI'S NEARBY!
RIGHT, RIGHT!
PFF
HE HE HE
?

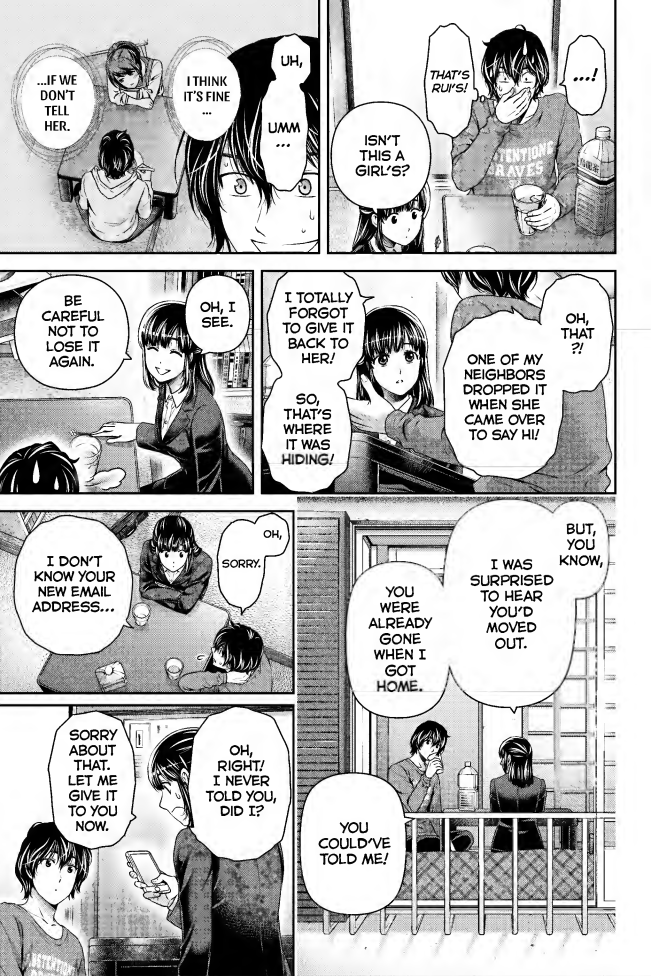

THAT REALLY SURPRISED ME.
I MEAN,
JUST NOW, I...
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
IT FELT LIKE MY WISH CAME TRUE.
THERE'S NO WAY...
...I CAN SAY THAT.
I...I DIDN'T THINK I'D RUN INTO HERE.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE, HUH?
WHY ARE YOU HERE, HINA-NEE?
DID YOU HAVE AN INTERVIEW?
YEAH! GET THIS!
I FINALLY GOT A JOB OFFER!
GRAB
WOW!
CONGRATS!
AND I'LL GET TO USE ENGLISH ON THE JOB, TOO!
I'M SO GLAD I DIDN'T GIVE UP!

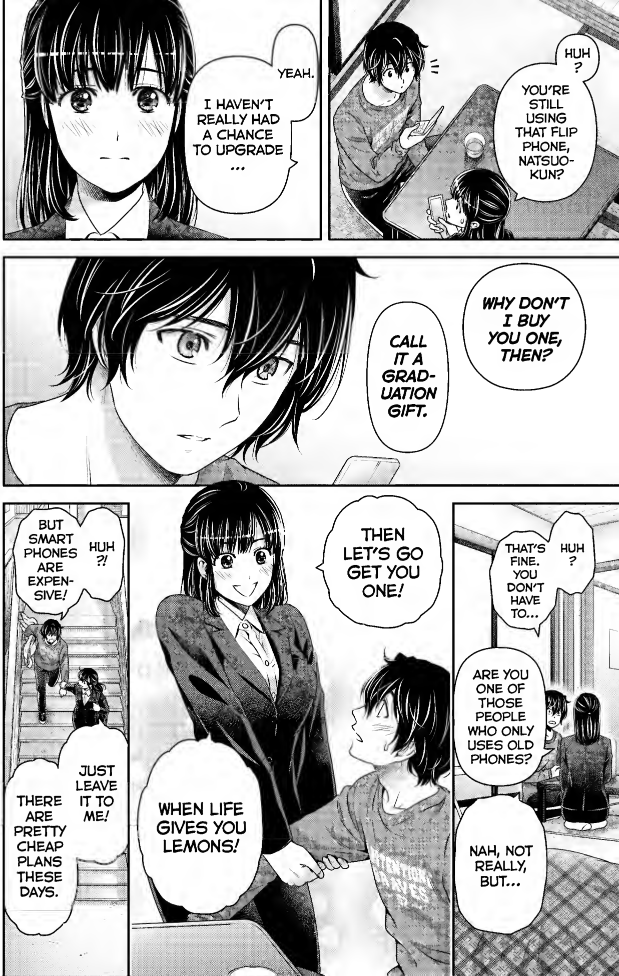

IT'S AT THE SUN LEAF HOTEL RIGHT OVER THERE!
WAIT, THERE?!
?
DO YOU KNOW IT?
WELL, YEAH.
MY APARTMENT'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.
THEN THAT MEANS...
...I'LL BE WORKING...
...RIGHT NEAR WHERE HE LIVES?
OH.
I...
I SEE.
...
HEY.
ARE YOU FREE AFTER THIS?
I KINDA WANNA...
...SEE YOUR NEW PLACE.
IF THAT'S OKAY.

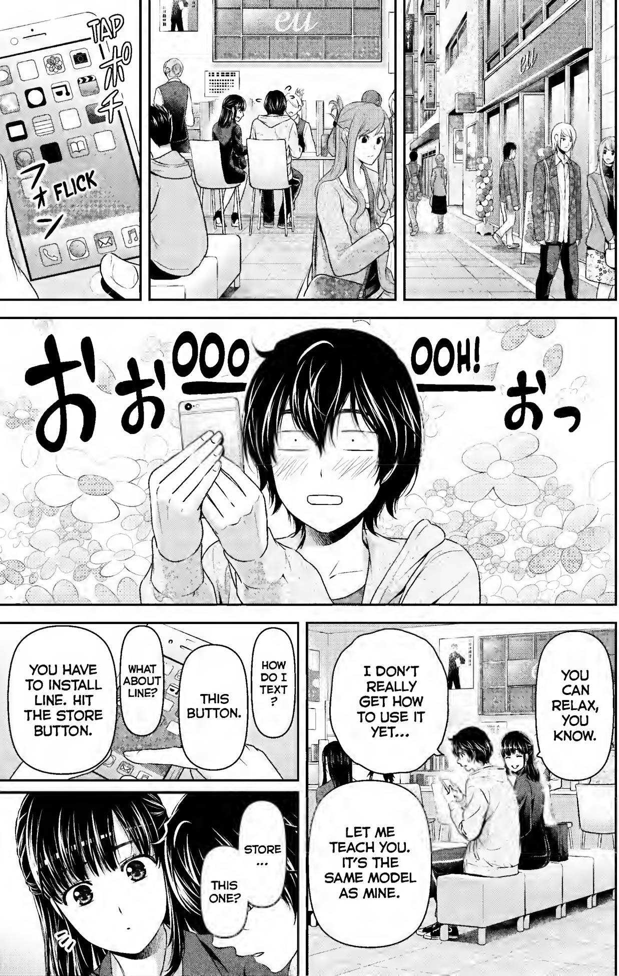

UH...
NO?
LET ME GUESS,
YOU HAVE PORN LYING AROUND THE ROOM?
WHA ?!
N-NO! NOTHING LIKE THAT!
THEN LET ME COME OVER!
SHOW YOUR BIG SISTER YOUR NEW PLACE!
ギリ CREAK
シッ
WOW.
YOU GET SOME GOOD SUNLIGHT FROM HERE, HUH?

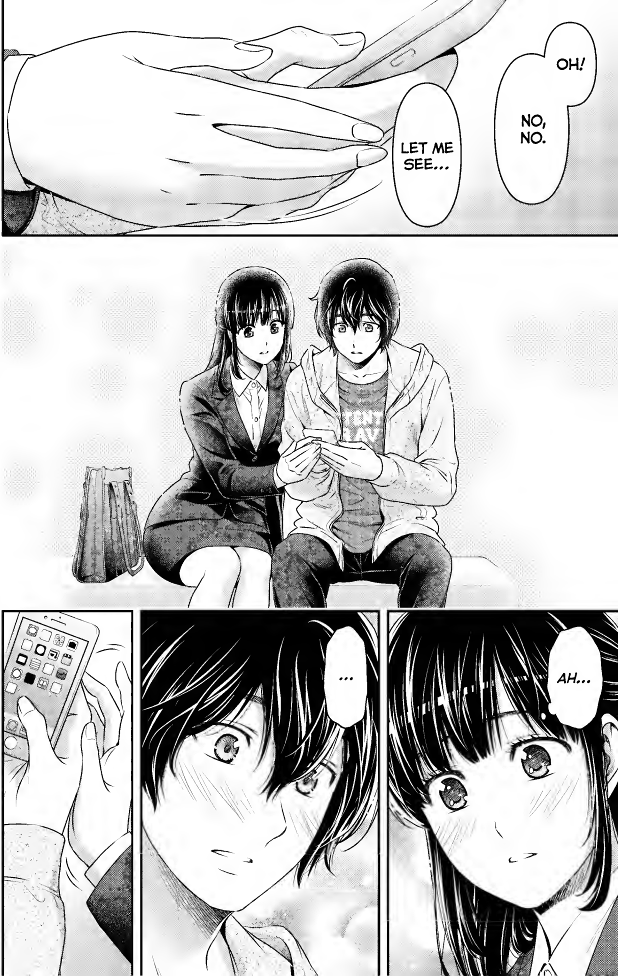

THE APARTMENT LOOKS PRETTY OLD, THOUGH.
WHY DIDN'T YOU RENT ONE SOMEWHERE NEWER?
OH... I WANTED SOMEWHERE CLOSE TO THE COLLEGE,
BUT ALL THE NICE PLACES WERE TOO EXPENSIVE.
GOTCHA!
H-HERE'S SOME TEA.
IS OOLONG FINE?
OH, SURE!
THANKS.
I WENT IN TO SAY HI AND GET A RUNDOWN OF THE JOB TODAY.
I WAS PARCHED FROM HOW NERVOUS I WAS!
GLAD EVERYTHING WORKED OUT.
...
Y'KNOW,
IT'S FUNNY.

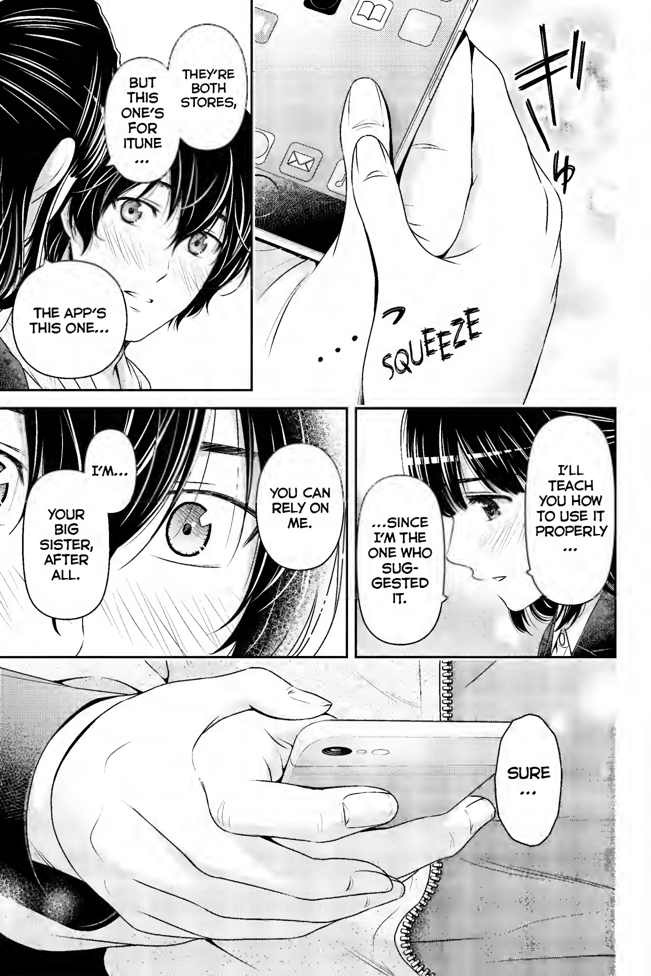

DOESN'T SITTING LIKE THIS ...
...REMIND YOU OF WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER?
...
JUST ME?
SORRY. THAT WAS WEIRD, HUH?
HAVE YOU SAID HI TO YOUR NEIGHBORS YET?
THESE DAYS–
HM?
SOMETHING'S ON THE FLOOR.
A HAIRPIN?

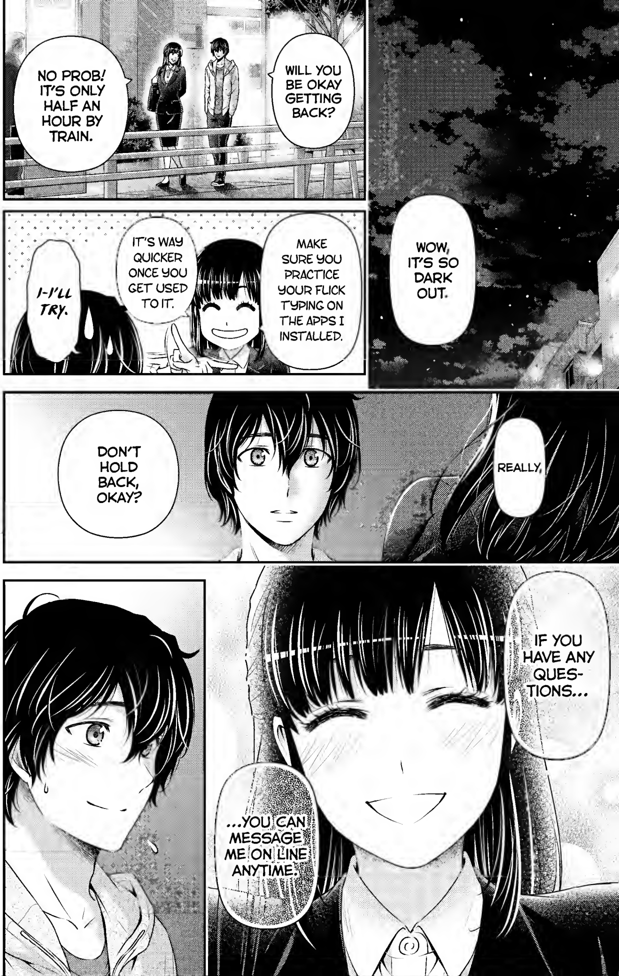

...!
THAT'S RUI'S!
烏龍茶
ISN'T THIS A GIRL'S?
UH,
UMM ...
I THINK IT'S FINE ...
...IF WE DON'T TELL HER.
OH, THAT ?!
ONE OF MY NEIGHBORS DROPPED IT WHEN SHE CAME OVER TO SAY HI!
I TOTALLY FORGOT TO GIVE IT BACK TO HER!
SO, THAT'S WHERE IT WAS HIDING!
OH, I SEE.
BE CAREFUL NOT TO LOSE IT AGAIN.
BUT, YOU KNOW,
I WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR YOU'D MOVED OUT.
YOU WERE ALREADY GONE WHEN I GOT HOME.
YOU COULD'VE TOLD ME!
OH, SORRY.
I DON'T KNOW YOUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS...
OH, RIGHT! I NEVER TOLD YOU, DID I?
SORRY ABOUT THAT. LET ME GIVE IT TO YOU NOW.

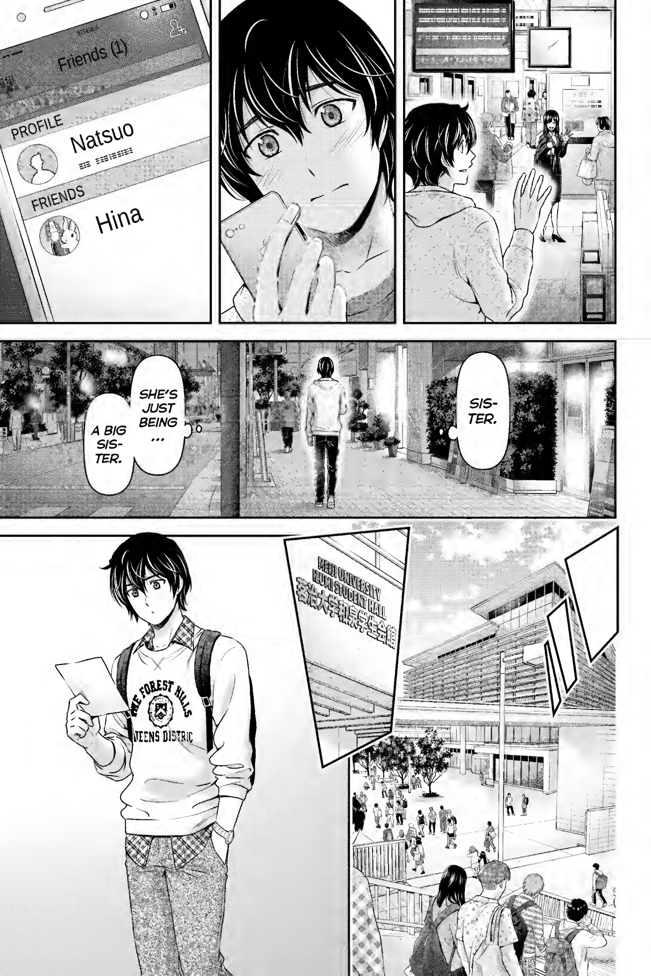

HUH?
YOU'RE STILL USING THAT FLIP PHONE, NATSUO-KUN?
YEAH.
I HAVEN'T REALLY HAD A CHANCE TO UPGRADE...
WHY DON'T I BUY YOU ONE, THEN?
CALL IT A GRADUATION GIFT.
HUH?
THAT'S FINE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ONLY USES OLD PHONES?
NAH, NOT REALLY, BUT...
THEN LET'S GO GET YOU ONE!
WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS!
HUH?!
BUT SMART PHONES ARE EXPENSIVE!
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!
THERE ARE PRETTY CHEAP PLANS THESE DAYS.

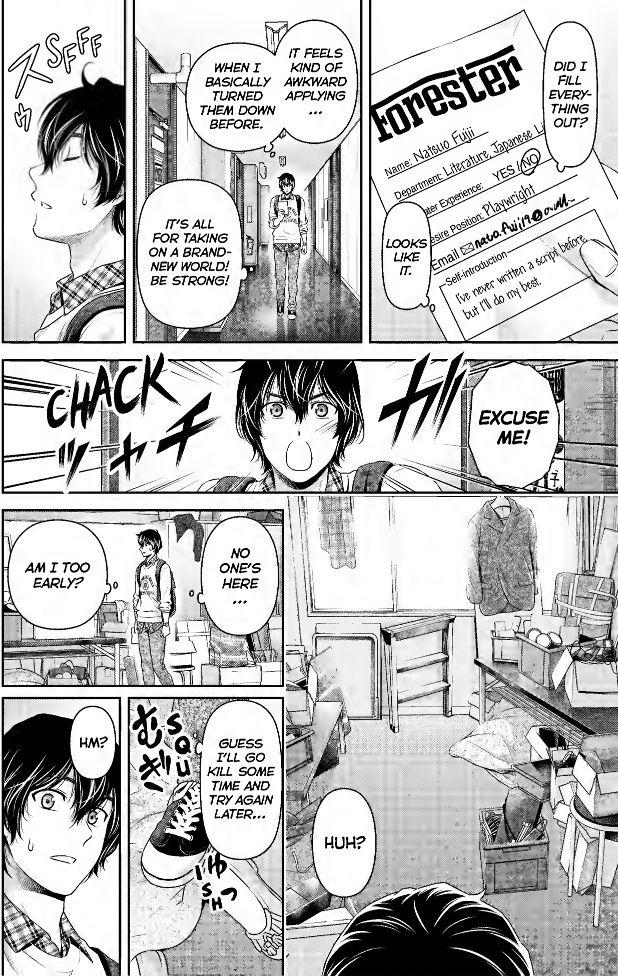

eu
eu
TAP
ポチ
FLICK
フォン
おぉーーーおっ
OOOOOH!
YOU CAN RELAX, YOU KNOW.
I DON'T REALLY GET HOW TO USE IT YET...
LET ME TEACH YOU. IT'S THE SAME MODEL AS MINE.
HOW DO I TEXT?
THIS BUTTON.
WHAT ABOUT LINE?
YOU HAVE TO INSTALL LINE. HIT THE STORE BUTTON.
STORE...
THIS ONE?


OH!
NO, NO.
LET ME SEE...
AH...
...


ギゅ
...
SQUEEZE
THEY'RE BOTH STORES,
BUT THIS ONE'S FOR ITUNE...
THE APP'S THIS ONE...
I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO USE IT PROPERLY...
...SINCE I'M THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED IT.
YOU CAN RELY ON ME.
I'M...
YOUR BIG SISTER, AFTER ALL.
SURE...


WOW, IT'S SO DARK OUT.
WILL YOU BE OKAY GETTING BACK?
NO PROB! IT'S ONLY HALF AN HOUR BY TRAIN.
MAKE SURE YOU PRACTICE YOUR FLICK TYPING ON THE APPS I INSTALLED.
IT'S WAY QUICKER ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT.
I-I'LL TRY.
REALLY.
DON'T HOLD BACK, OKAY?
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS...
...YOU CAN MESSAGE ME ON LINE ANYTIME.


Friends (1)
PROFILE
Natsuo
FRIENDS
Hina
SIS-TER.
SHE'S JUST BEING ...
A BIG SIS-TER.
MEIJI UNIVERSITY IZUMI STUDENT HALL
明治大学和泉学生会館
THE FOREST HILLS
QUEENS DISTRIC


DID I FILL EVERY-THING OUT?
LOOKS LIKE IT.
IT FEELS KIND OF AWKWARD APPLYING ...
WHEN I BASICALLY TURNED THEM DOWN BEFORE.
IT'S ALL FOR TAKING ON A BRAND-NEW WORLD! BE STRONG!
スゥ
SFFF
EXCUSE ME!
ガ
ガチャッ
CHACK
HUH?
NO ONE'S HERE ...
AM I TOO EARLY?
GUESS I'LL GO KILL SOME TIME AND TRY AGAIN LATER...
むぎゅ
SQU
ISH
HM?

Forester

Name: Natsuo Fujii

Department: Literature, Japanese Li

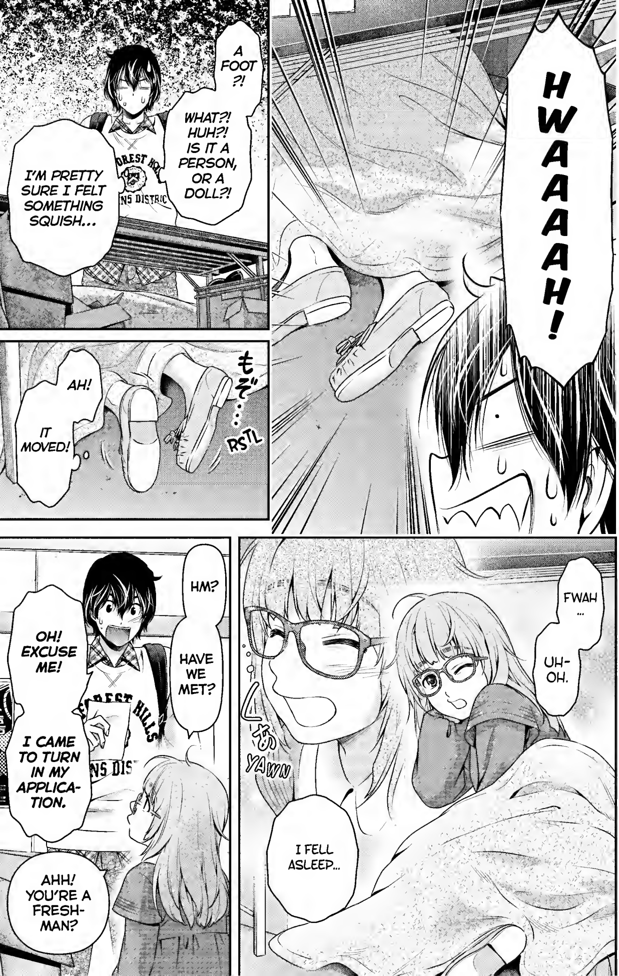
ater Experience: YES / [✓ NO]

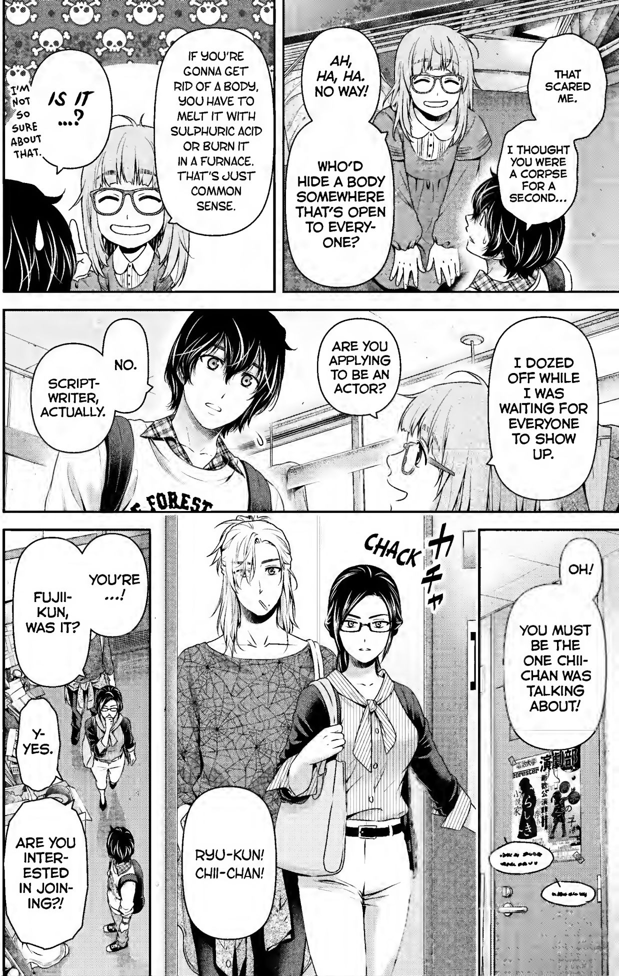
esire Position: Playwright

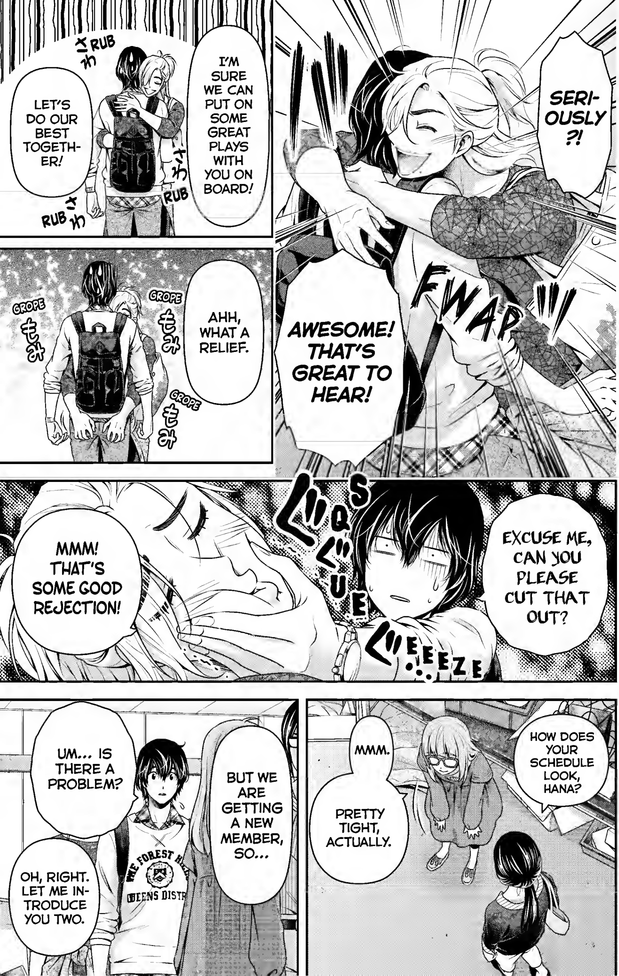
Email ✉ natuo.fujii9@o.uM..

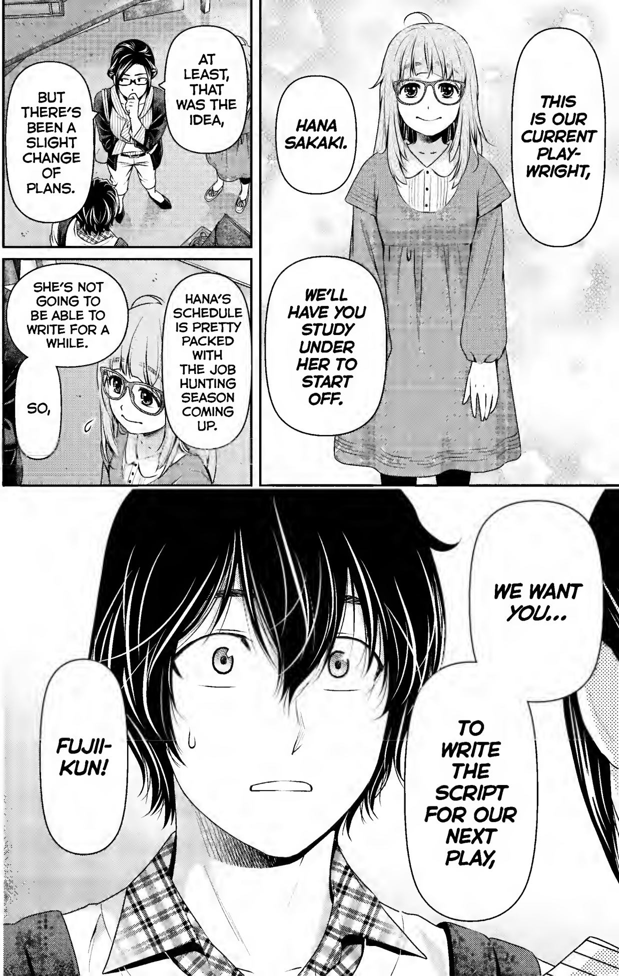
Self-introduction

I've never written a script before, but I'll do my best.

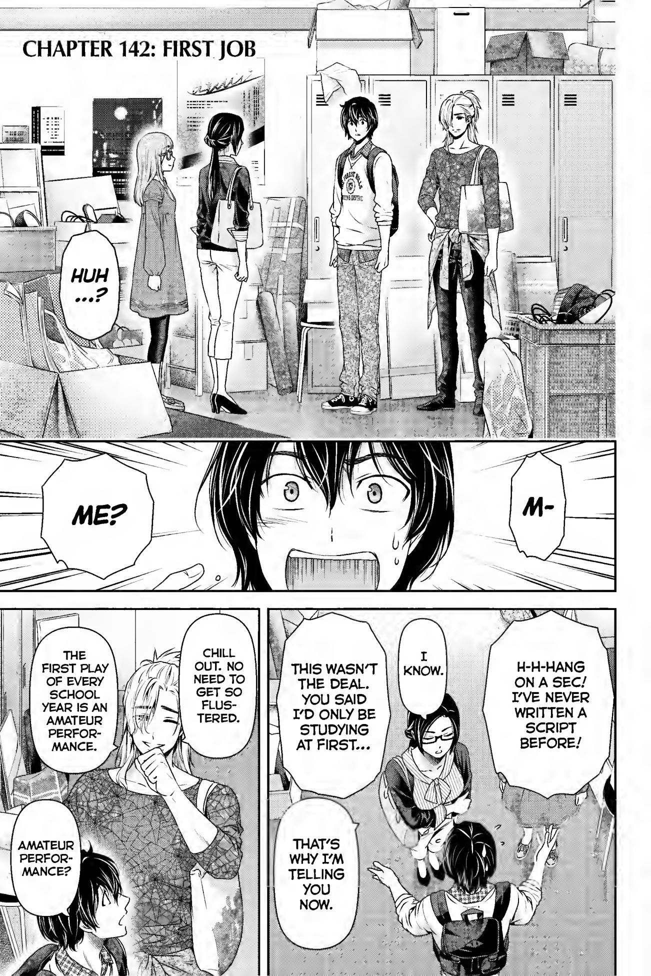

HWAAAAAH!
A FOOT?!
WHAT?! HUH?! IS IT A PERSON, OR A DOLL?!
I'M PRETTY SURE I FELT SOMETHING SQUISH...
もぞ…
RSTL
AH!
IT MOVED!
FWAH...
UH-OH.
くあ
YAWN
I FELL ASLEEP...
HM?
HAVE WE MET?
OH! EXCUSE ME!
I CAME TO TURN IN MY APPLICATION.
AHH! YOU'RE A FRESHMAN?

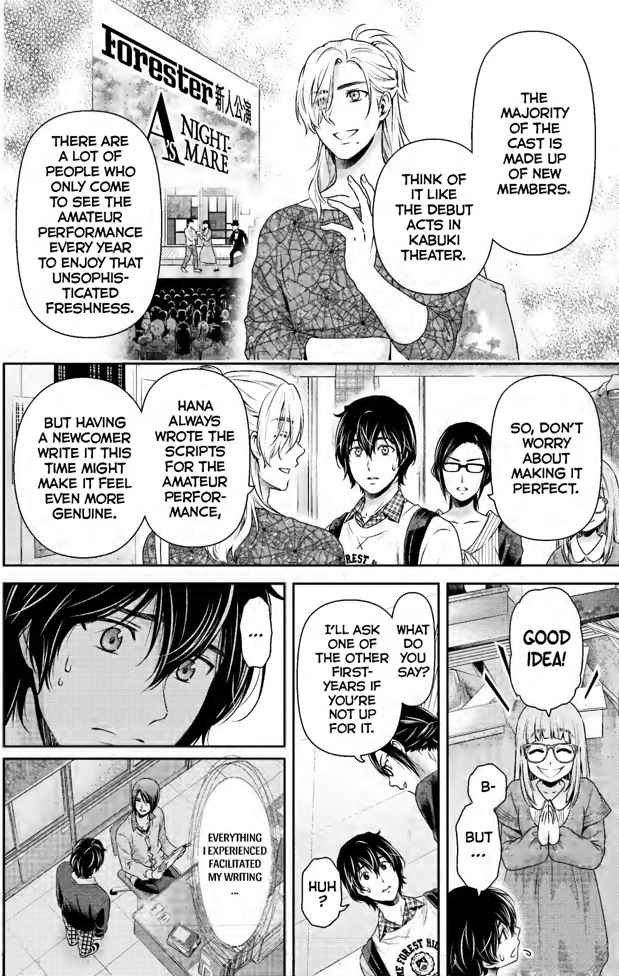

THAT SCARED ME.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A CORPSE FOR A SECOND...
AH, HA, HA. NO WAY!
WHO'D HIDE A BODY SOMEWHERE THAT'S OPEN TO EVERYONE?
IF YOU'RE GONNA GET RID OF A BODY, YOU HAVE TO MELT IT WITH SULPHURIC ACID OR BURN IT IN A FURNACE. THAT'S JUST COMMON SENSE.
IS IT ...?
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT.
I DOZED OFF WHILE I WAS WAITING FOR EVERYONE TO SHOW UP.
ARE YOU APPLYING TO BE AN ACTOR?
NO.
SCRIPTWRITER, ACTUALLY.
FOREST
OH!
YOU MUST BE THE ONE CHII-CHAN WAS TALKING ABOUT!
演劇部
forester
CHACK カチャ
RYU-KUN! CHII-CHAN!
YOU'RE ...!
FUJII-KUN, WAS IT?
Y-YES.
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING?!

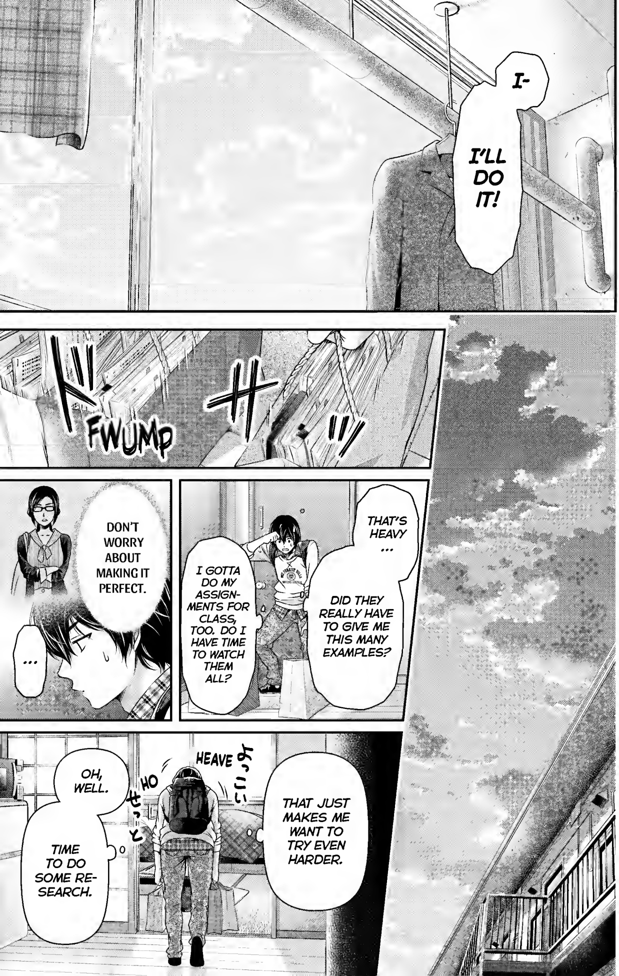

SERIOUSLY?!
AWESOME! THAT'S GREAT TO HEAR!
FWAP!!!
I'M SURE WE CAN PUT ON SOME GREAT PLAYS WITH YOU ON BOARD!
LET'S DO OUR BEST TOGETHER!
さわ RUB
さわ RUB
さわ RUB
AHH, WHAT A RELIEF.
もみ GROPE
もみ GROPE
もみ GROPE
EXCUSE ME, CAN YOU PLEASE CUT THAT OUT?
SQUEEZE
SQUEEEEZE
MMM! THAT'S SOME GOOD REJECTION!
HOW DOES YOUR SCHEDULE LOOK, HANA?
MMM.
PRETTY TIGHT, ACTUALLY.
BUT WE ARE GETTING A NEW MEMBER, SO...
UM... IS THERE A PROBLEM?
OH, RIGHT. LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TWO.
THE FOREST HILLS
QUEENS DISTR

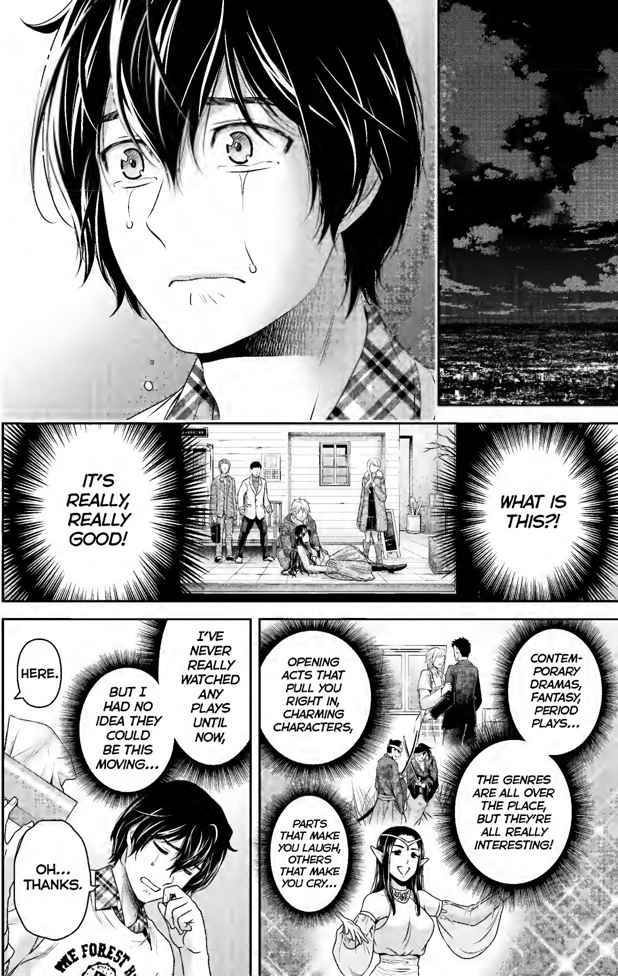

THIS IS OUR CURRENT PLAYWRIGHT,
HANA SAKAKI.
WE'LL HAVE YOU STUDY UNDER HER TO START OFF.
AT LEAST, THAT WAS THE IDEA,
BUT THERE'S BEEN A SLIGHT CHANGE OF PLANS.
HANA'S SCHEDULE IS PRETTY PACKED WITH THE JOB HUNTING SEASON COMING UP.
SHE'S NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO WRITE FOR A WHILE.
SO,
WE WANT YOU...
TO WRITE THE SCRIPT FOR OUR NEXT PLAY,
FUJII-KUN!

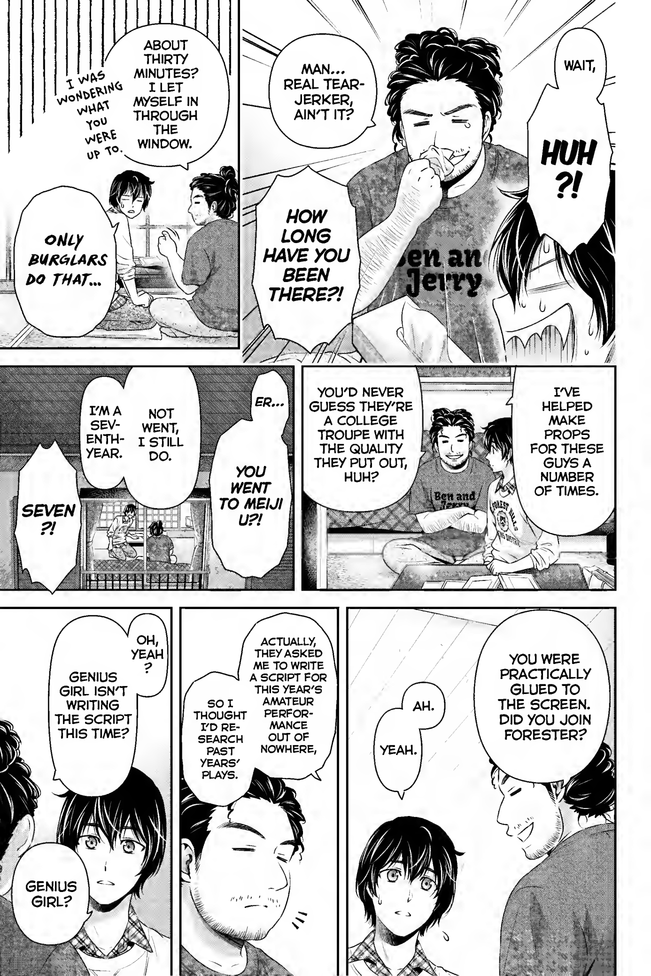
CHAPTER 142: FIRST JOB

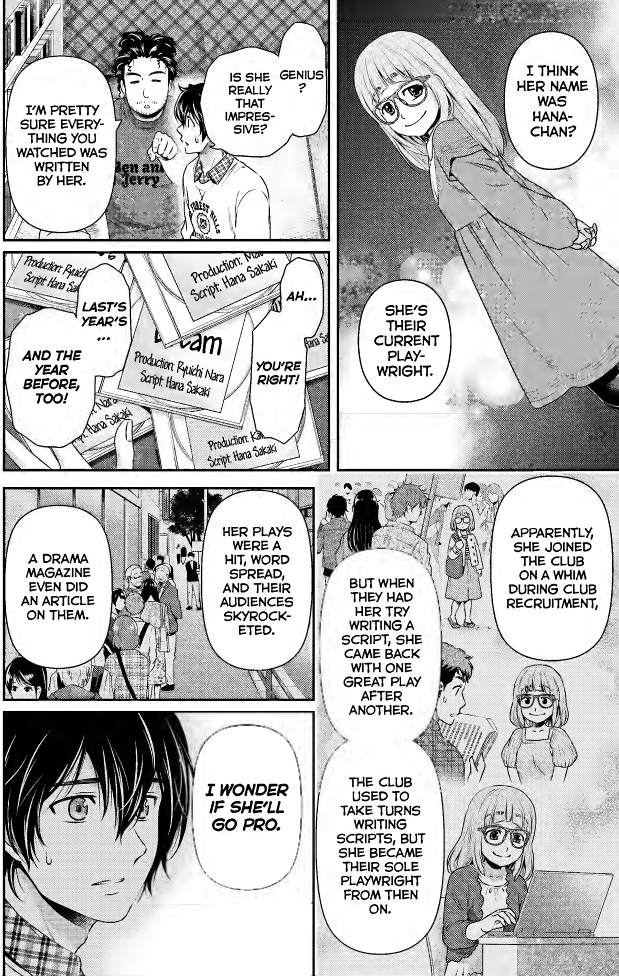

HUH ...?
M-
ME?
H-H-HANG ON A SEC! I'VE NEVER WRITTEN A SCRIPT BEFORE!
I KNOW.
THIS WASN'T THE DEAL. YOU SAID I'D ONLY BE STUDYING AT FIRST...
THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU NOW.
CHILL OUT. NO NEED TO GET SO FLUSTERED.
THE FIRST PLAY OF EVERY SCHOOL YEAR IS AN AMATEUR PERFORMANCE.
AMATEUR PERFORMANCE?

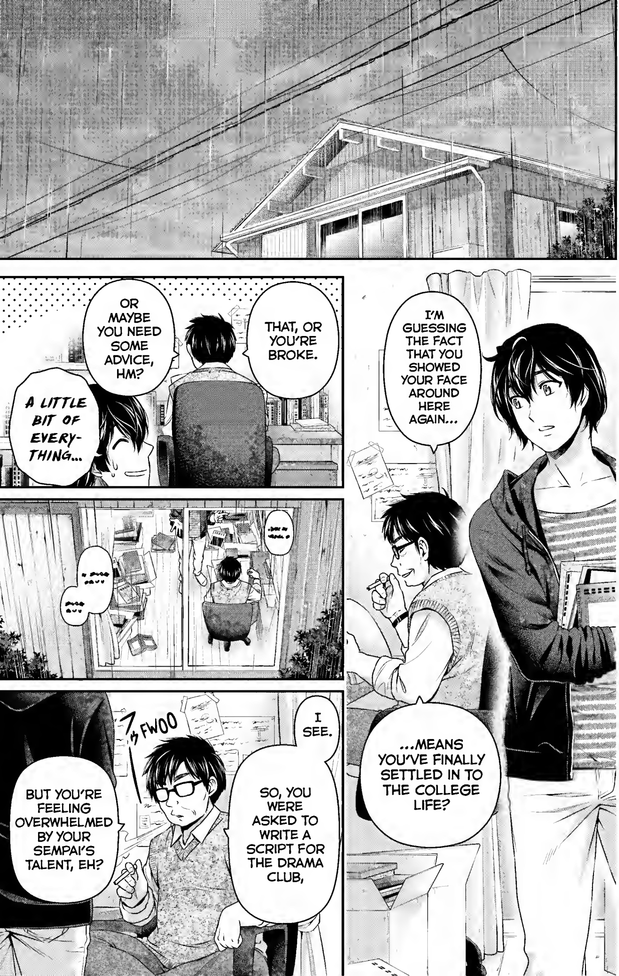

Forester 新人公演
A's NIGHT-MARE
THE MAJORITY OF THE CAST IS MADE UP OF NEW MEMBERS.
THINK OF IT LIKE THE DEBUT ACTS IN KABUKI THEATER.
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ONLY COME TO SEE THE AMATEUR PERFORMANCE EVERY YEAR TO ENJOY THAT UNSOPHISTICATED FRESHNESS.
SO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT MAKING IT PERFECT.
HANA ALWAYS WROTE THE SCRIPTS FOR THE AMATEUR PERFORMANCE,
BUT HAVING A NEWCOMER WRITE IT THIS TIME MIGHT MAKE IT FEEL EVEN MORE GENUINE.
GOOD IDEA!
B- BUT ...
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I'LL ASK ONE OF THE OTHER FIRST-YEARS IF YOU'RE NOT UP FOR IT.
HUH?
...
EVERYTHING I EXPERIENCED FACILITATED MY WRITING ...

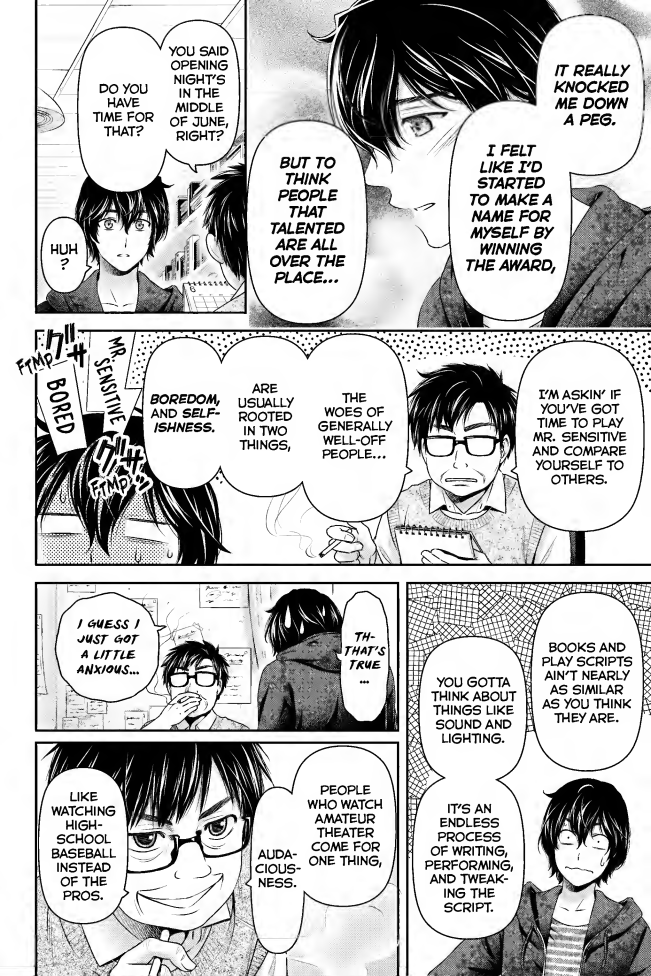

I-
I'LL DO IT!
ドサッ
FWUMP
THAT'S HEAVY ...
DID THEY REALLY HAVE TO GIVE ME THIS MANY EXAMPLES?
I GOTTA DO MY ASSIGNMENTS FOR CLASS, TOO. DO I HAVE TIME TO WATCH THEM ALL?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT MAKING IT PERFECT.
...
THAT JUST MAKES ME WANT TO TRY EVEN HARDER.
よっこい
HEAVE
せっと
HO
OH, WELL.
TIME TO DO SOME RESEARCH.

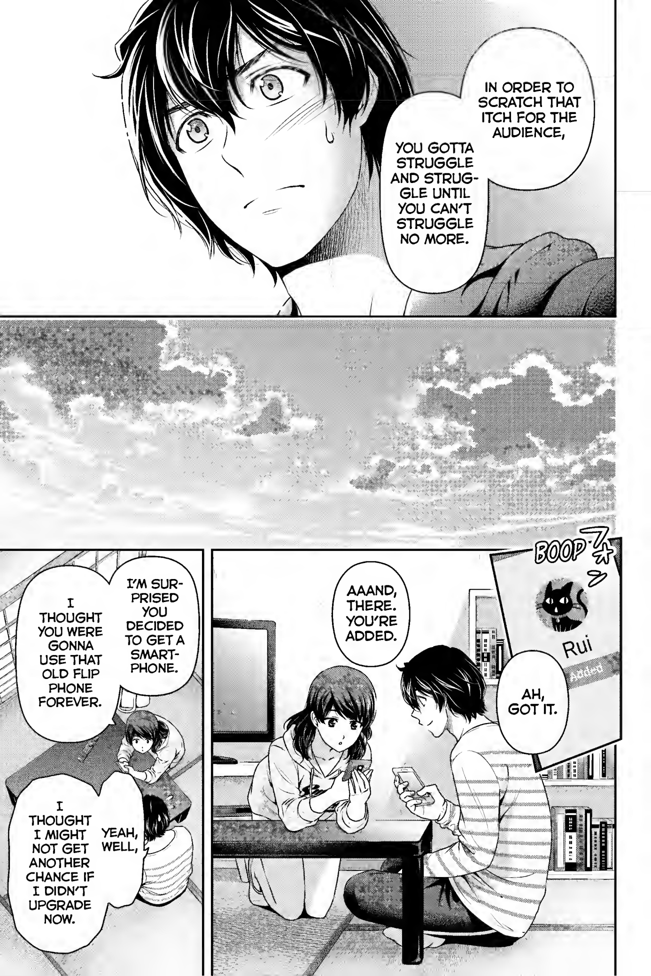

WHAT IS THIS?!
IT'S REALLY, REALLY GOOD!
CONTEMPORARY DRAMAS, FANTASY, PERIOD PLAYS...
THE GENRES ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE, BUT THEY'RE ALL REALLY INTERESTING!
OPENING ACTS THAT PULL YOU RIGHT IN, CHARMING CHARACTERS,
PARTS THAT MAKE YOU LAUGH, OTHERS THAT MAKE YOU CRY...
I'VE NEVER REALLY WATCHED ANY PLAYS UNTIL NOW,
BUT I HAD NO IDEA THEY COULD BE THIS MOVING...
HERE.
OH... THANKS.

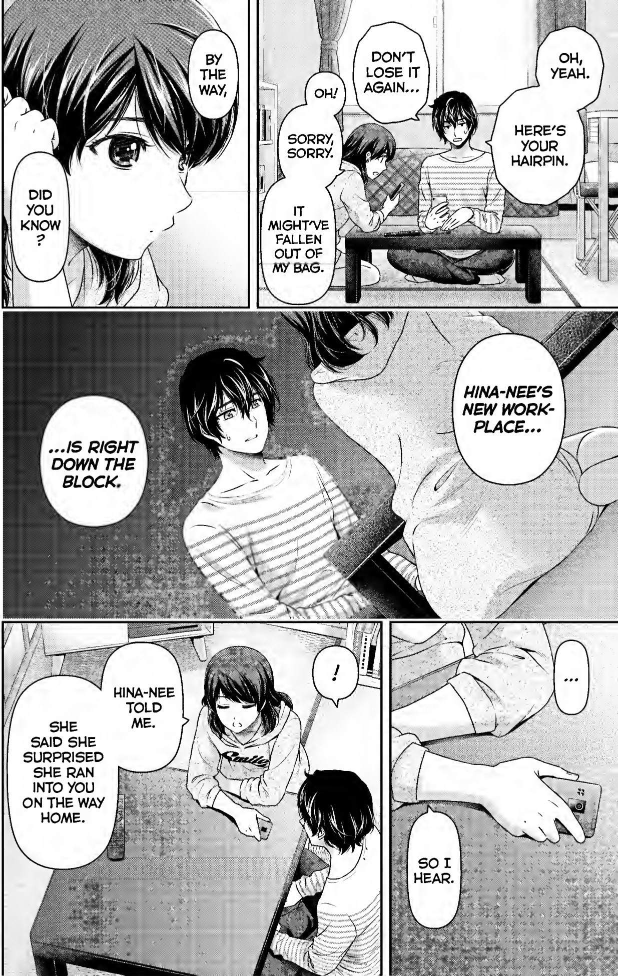

WAIT,
HUH?!
MAN... REAL TEAR-JERKER, AIN'T IT?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?!
Ben an Jerry
ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES? I LET MYSELF IN THROUGH THE WINDOW.
I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU WERE UP TO.
ONLY BURGLARS DO THAT...
I'VE HELPED MAKE PROPS FOR THESE GUYS A NUMBER OF TIMES.
YOU'D NEVER GUESS THEY'RE A COLLEGE TROUPE WITH THE QUALITY THEY PUT OUT, HUH?
ER...
YOU WENT TO MEIJI U?!
NOT WENT, I STILL DO.
I'M A SEVENTH-YEAR.
SEVEN?!
YOU WERE PRACTICALLY GLUED TO THE SCREEN. DID YOU JOIN FORESTER?
AH.
YEAH.
ACTUALLY, THEY ASKED ME TO WRITE A SCRIPT FOR THIS YEAR'S AMATEUR PERFORMANCE OUT OF NOWHERE,
SO I THOUGHT I'D RESEARCH PAST YEARS' PLAYS.
OH, YEAH?
GENIUS GIRL ISN'T WRITING THE SCRIPT THIS TIME?
GENIUS GIRL?

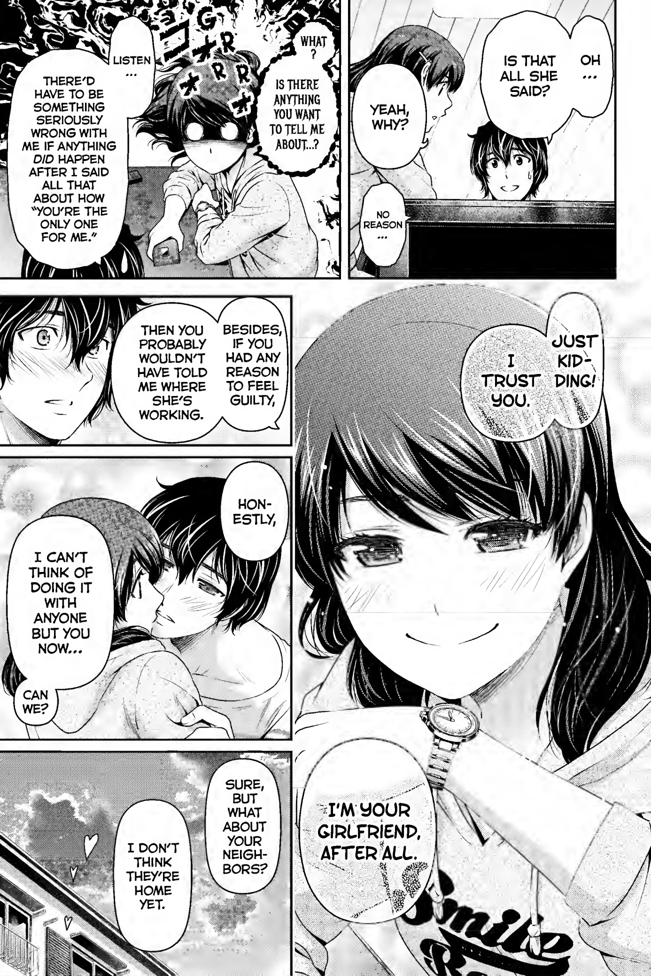

I THINK HER NAME WAS HANA-CHAN?
SHE'S THEIR CURRENT PLAYWRIGHT.
GENIUS?
IS SHE REALLY THAT IMPRESSIVE?
I'M PRETTY SURE EVERYTHING YOU WATCHED WAS WRITTEN BY HER.
den and Jerry
FOREST HILLS
Production: Ma
Script: Hana Sakaki
AH...
YOU'RE RIGHT!
Production: Ryuich
Script: Hana Saka
LAST'S YEAR'S ...
AND THE YEAR BEFORE, TOO!
eam
Production: Ryuichi Nara
Script: Hana Sakaki
Nara
Hana Sakaki
Hana Sa
Production: Ka
Script: Hana Sakaki
APPARENTLY, SHE JOINED THE CLUB ON A WHIM DURING CLUB RECRUITMENT,
BUT WHEN THEY HAD HER TRY WRITING A SCRIPT, SHE CAME BACK WITH ONE GREAT PLAY AFTER ANOTHER.
THE CLUB USED TO TAKE TURNS WRITING SCRIPTS, BUT SHE BECAME THEIR SOLE PLAYWRIGHT FROM THEN ON.
HER PLAYS WERE A HIT, WORD SPREAD, AND THEIR AUDIENCES SKYROCKETED.
A DRAMA MAGAZINE EVEN DID AN ARTICLE ON THEM.
I WONDER IF SHE'LL GO PRO.

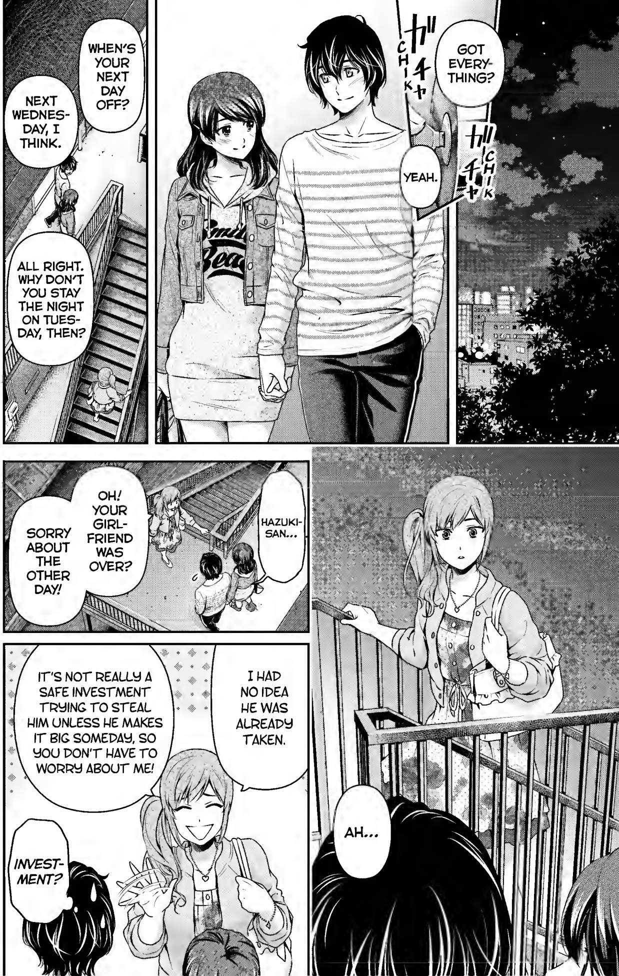

I'M GUESSING THE FACT THAT YOU SHOWED YOUR FACE AROUND HERE AGAIN...
...MEANS YOU'VE FINALLY SETTLED IN TO THE COLLEGE LIFE?
THAT, OR YOU'RE BROKE.
OR MAYBE YOU NEED SOME ADVICE, HM?
A LITTLE BIT OF EVERY-THING...
I SEE.
FWOO
SO, YOU WERE ASKED TO WRITE A SCRIPT FOR THE DRAMA CLUB,
BUT YOU'RE FEELING OVERWHELMED BY YOUR SEMPAI'S TALENT, EH?

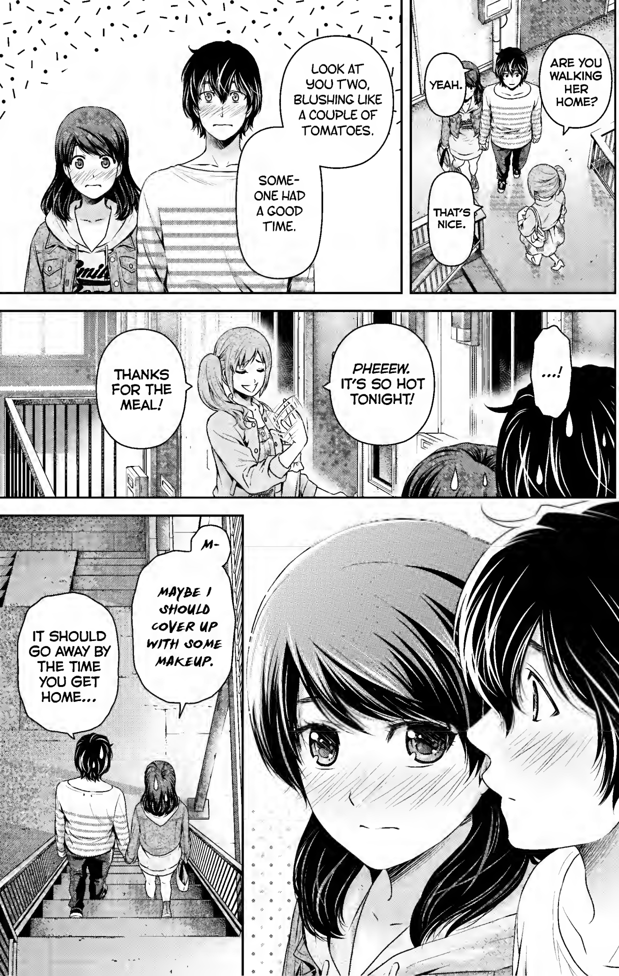

IT REALLY KNOCKED ME DOWN A PEG.
I FELT LIKE I'D STARTED TO MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF BY WINNING THE AWARD,
BUT TO THINK PEOPLE THAT TALENTED ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE...
YOU SAID OPENING NIGHT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF JUNE, RIGHT?
DO YOU HAVE TIME FOR THAT?
HUH?
I'M ASKIN' IF YOU'VE GOT TIME TO PLAY MR. SENSITIVE AND COMPARE YOURSELF TO OTHERS.
THE WOES OF GENERALLY WELL-OFF PEOPLE...
ARE USUALLY ROOTED IN TWO THINGS,
BOREDOM, AND *SELFISHNESS*.
MR. SENSITIVE
グサ FTMP
BORED
グサ FTMP
BOOKS AND PLAY SCRIPTS AIN'T NEARLY AS SIMILAR AS YOU THINK THEY ARE.
YOU GOTTA THINK ABOUT THINGS LIKE SOUND AND LIGHTING.
IT'S AN ENDLESS PROCESS OF WRITING, PERFORMING, AND TWEAKING THE SCRIPT.
TH-THAT'S TRUE...
I GUESS I JUST GOT A LITTLE ANXIOUS...
PEOPLE WHO WATCH AMATEUR THEATER COME FOR ONE THING,
AUDACIOUSNESS.
LIKE WATCHING HIGH-SCHOOL BASEBALL INSTEAD OF THE PROS.

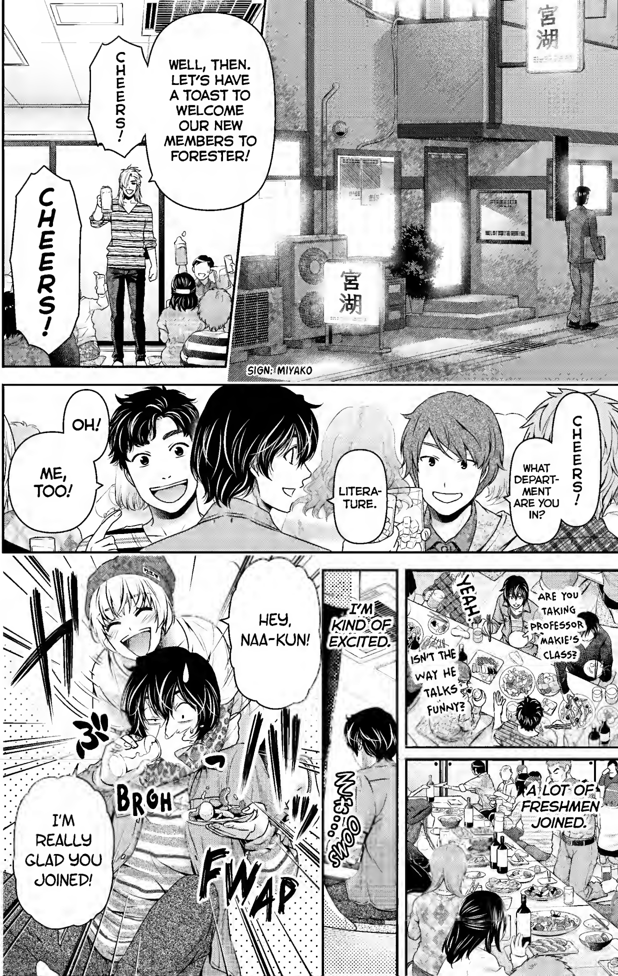

IN ORDER TO SCRATCH THAT ITCH FOR THE AUDIENCE,
YOU GOTTA STRUGGLE AND STRUGGLE UNTIL YOU CAN'T STRUGGLE NO MORE.
AAAND, THERE. YOU'RE ADDED.
BOOP フォン
Rui
Added
AH, GOT IT.
I'M SURPRISED YOU DECIDED TO GET A SMARTPHONE.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA USE THAT OLD FLIP PHONE FOREVER.
YEAH, WELL,
I THOUGHT I MIGHT NOT GET ANOTHER CHANCE IF I DIDN'T UPGRADE NOW.

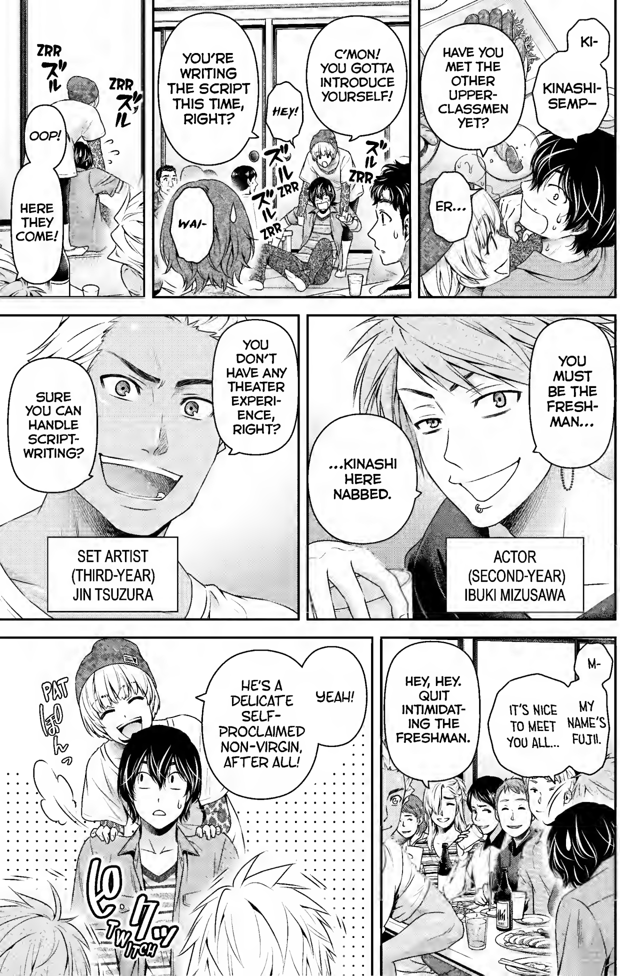

OH, YEAH.
HERE'S YOUR HAIRPIN.
DON'T LOSE IT AGAIN...
OH!
SORRY, SORRY.
IT MIGHT'VE FALLEN OUT OF MY BAG.
BY THE WAY,
DID YOU KNOW?
HINA-NEE'S NEW WORKPLACE...
...IS RIGHT DOWN THE BLOCK.
...
SO I HEAR.
!
HINA-NEE TOLD ME.
SHE SAID SHE SURPRISED SHE RAN INTO YOU ON THE WAY HOME.

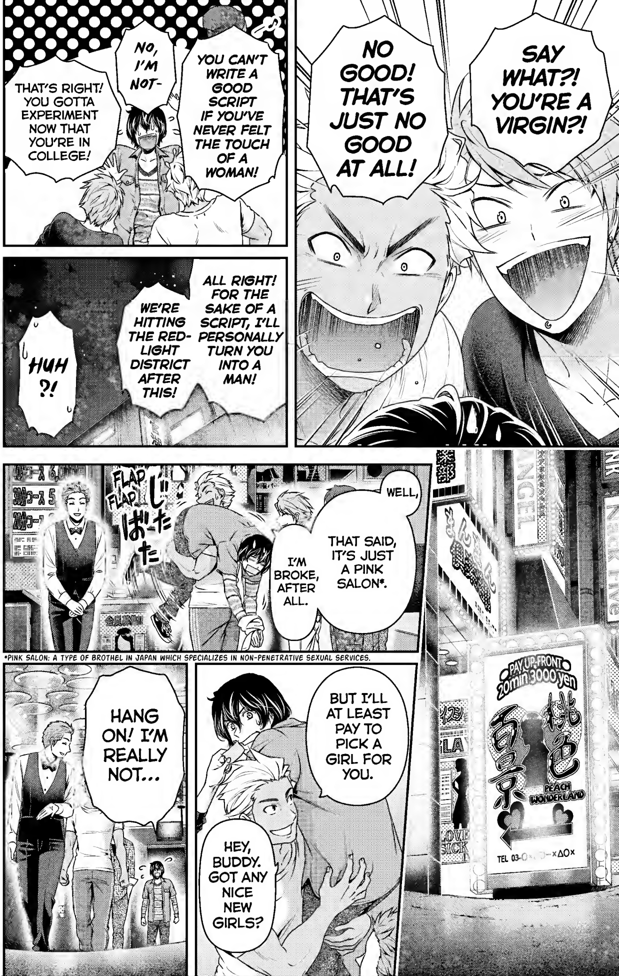

OH ...
IS THAT ALL SHE SAID?
YEAH, WHY?
NO REASON ...
WHAT ?
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT...?
ゴオオオ GRRR
LISTEN ...
THERE'D HAVE TO BE SOMETHING SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH ME IF ANYTHING *DID* HAPPEN AFTER I SAID ALL THAT ABOUT HOW "YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME."
BESIDES, IF YOU HAD ANY REASON TO FEEL GUILTY,
THEN YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE TOLD ME WHERE SHE'S WORKING.
JUST KIDDING!
I TRUST YOU.
I'M YOUR GIRLFRIEND, AFTER ALL.
HONESTLY,
I CAN'T THINK OF DOING IT WITH ANYONE BUT YOU NOW...
CAN WE?
SURE, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS?
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE HOME YET.


ガチャ CHIK
GOT EVERYTHING?
ガチャ CHIK
YEAH.
WHEN'S YOUR NEXT DAY OFF?
NEXT WEDNESDAY, I THINK.
ALL RIGHT. WHY DON'T YOU STAY THE NIGHT ON TUESDAY, THEN?
AH...
HAZUKI-SAN...
OH! YOUR GIRLFRIEND WAS OVER?
SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY!
I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS ALREADY TAKEN.
IT'S NOT REALLY A SAFE INVESTMENT TRYING TO STEAL HIM UNLESS HE MAKES IT BIG SOMEDAY, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME!
INVESTMENT?

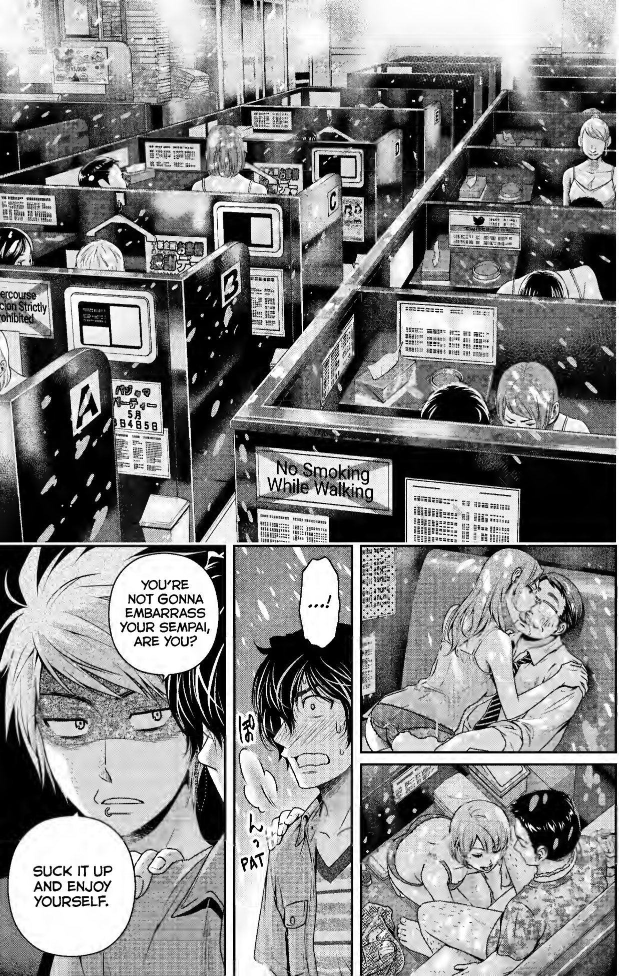

ARE YOU WALKING HER HOME?
YEAH.
THAT'S NICE.
LOOK AT YOU TWO, BLUSHING LIKE A COUPLE OF TOMATOES.
SOME-ONE HAD A GOOD TIME.
...!
PHEEEW. IT'S SO HOT TONIGHT!
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!
M-
MAYBE I SHOULD COVER UP WITH SOME MAKEUP.
IT SHOULD GO AWAY BY THE TIME YOU GET HOME...

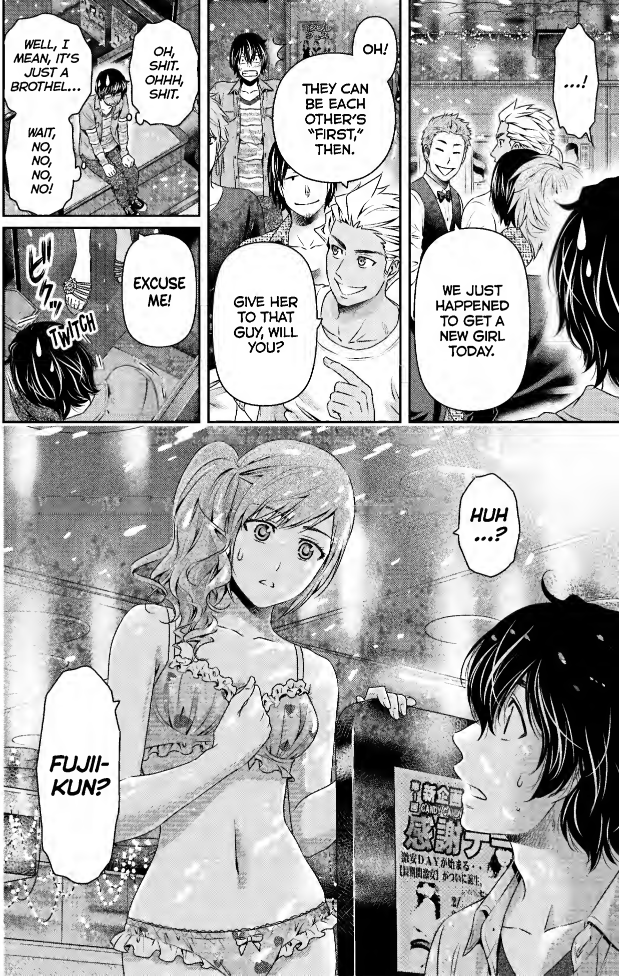

宮湖
SIGN: MIYAKO
WELL, THEN. LET'S HAVE A TOAST TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS TO FORESTER!
CHEERS!
CHEERS!
CHEERS!
WHAT DEPARTMENT ARE YOU IN?
LITERATURE.
OH!
ME, TOO!
ARE YOU TAKING PROFESSOR MAKIE'S CLASS?
YEAH.
ISN'T THE WAY HE TALKS FUNNY?
A LOT OF FRESHMEN JOINED.
I'M KIND OF EXCITED.
そお… SWOO…
HEY, NAA-KUN!
BRGH
FWAP
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU JOINED!


KI-
KINASHI-SEMP—
HAVE YOU MET THE OTHER UPPER-CLASSMEN YET?
ER...
C'MON! YOU GOTTA INTRODUCE YOURSELF!
HEY!
ズル ZRR
ズル ZRR
ズル ZRR
YOU'RE WRITING THE SCRIPT THIS TIME, RIGHT?
WAI-
ZRR ズル
ZRR ズル
OOP!
HERE THEY COME!
YOU MUST BE THE FRESHMAN...
...KINASHI HERE NABBED.
ACTOR (SECOND-YEAR) IBUKI MIZUSAWA
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY THEATER EXPERIENCE, RIGHT?
SURE YOU CAN HANDLE SCRIPT-WRITING?
SET ARTIST (THIRD-YEAR) JIN TSUZURA
M-
MY NAME'S FUJII.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU ALL...
HEY, HEY. QUIT INTIMIDATING THE FRESHMAN.
YEAH!
HE'S A DELICATE SELF-PROCLAIMED NON-VIRGIN, AFTER ALL!
PAT ぽんっ
ひくッ TWITCH

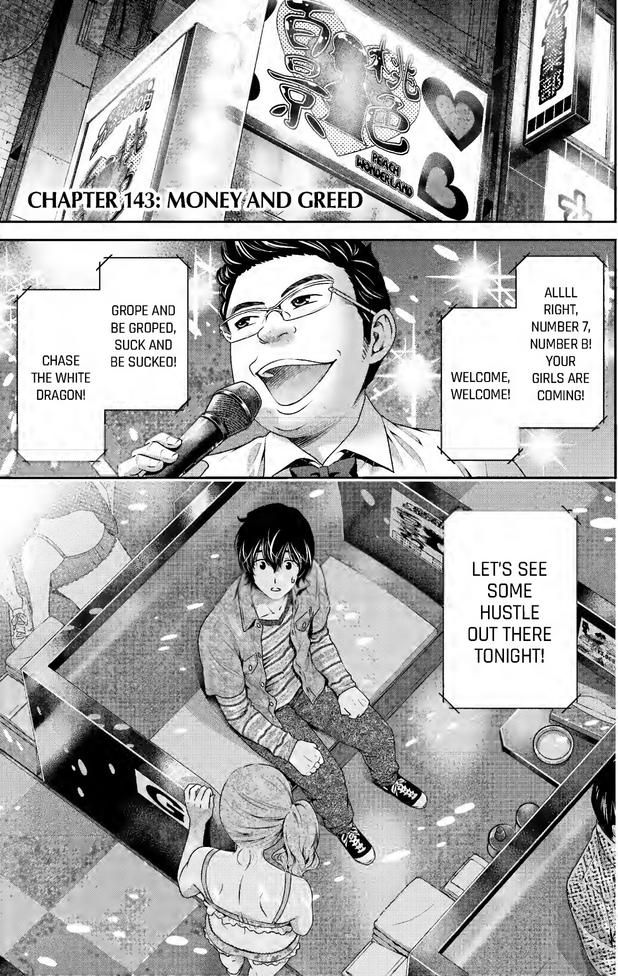

SAY WHAT?! YOU'RE A VIRGIN?!
NO GOOD! THAT'S JUST NO GOOD AT ALL!
YOU CAN'T WRITE A GOOD SCRIPT IF YOU'VE NEVER FELT THE TOUCH OF A WOMAN!
NO, I'M NOT-
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU GOTTA EXPERIMENT NOW THAT YOU'RE IN COLLEGE!
ALL RIGHT! FOR THE SAKE OF A SCRIPT, I'LL PERSONALLY TURN YOU INTO A MAN!
WE'RE HITTING THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT AFTER THIS!
HUH?!
PAY UP-FRONT
20min 3000 yen
桃色百景
PEACH WONDERLAND
TEL 03-○×○-×Δ○×
WELL,
THAT SAID, IT'S JUST A PINK SALON*.
I'M BROKE, AFTER ALL.
FLAP FLAP
じたばた
BUT I'LL AT LEAST PAY TO PICK A GIRL FOR YOU.
HEY, BUDDY. GOT ANY NICE NEW GIRLS?
HANG ON! I'M REALLY NOT...

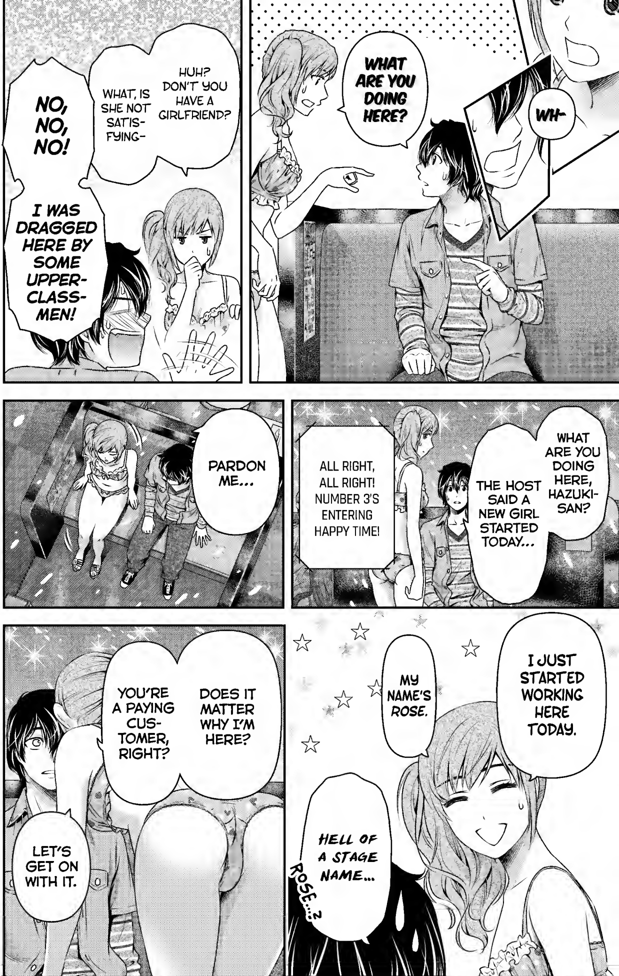
*PINK SALON: A TYPE OF BROTHEL IN JAPAN WHICH SPECIALIZES IN NON-PENETRATIVE SEXUAL SERVICES.

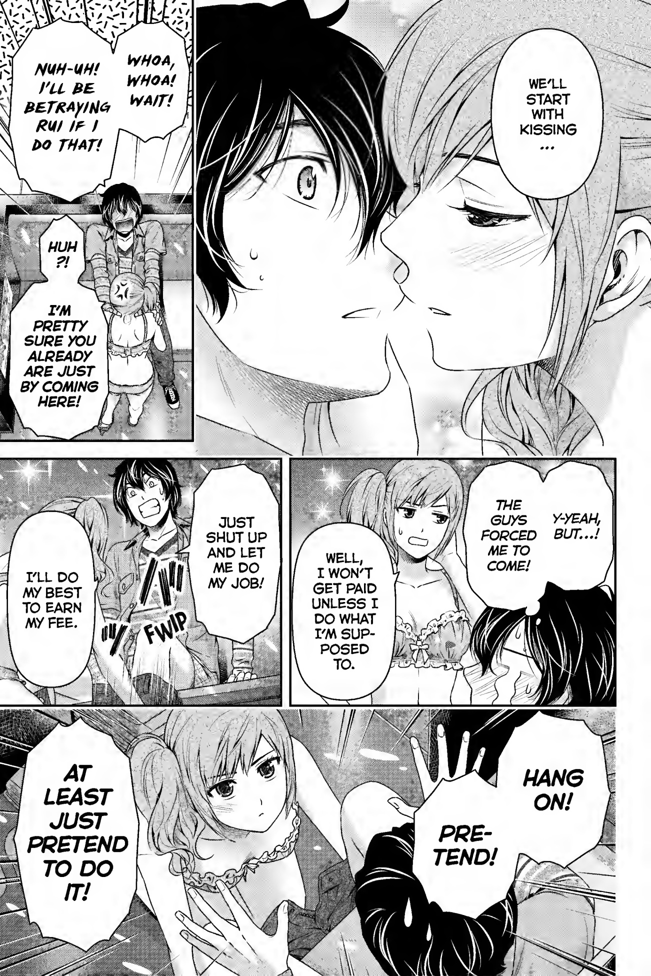

E
D
C
B
A
ercourse
cion Strictly
ohibited
パジャマ
パーティー
5月
3日4日5日
No Smoking
While Walking
...!
ぽん
PAT
YOU'RE NOT GONNA EMBARRASS YOUR SEMPAI, ARE YOU?
SUCK IT UP AND ENJOY YOURSELF.

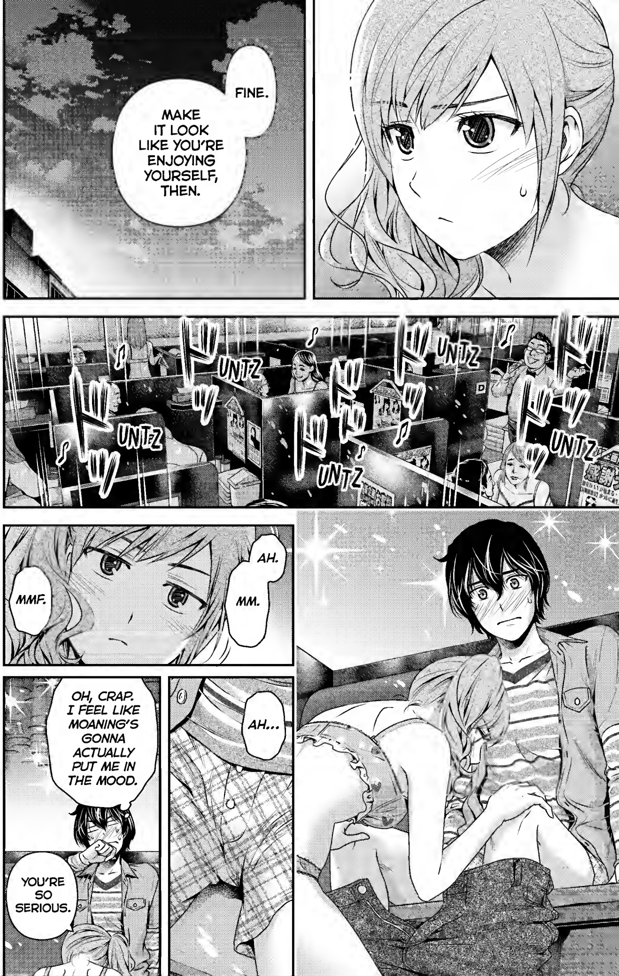

...!
WE JUST HAPPENED TO GET A NEW GIRL TODAY.
OH!
THEY CAN BE EACH OTHER'S "FIRST," THEN.
GIVE HER TO THAT GUY, WILL YOU?
OH, SHIT. OHHH, SHIT.
WELL, I MEAN, IT'S JUST A BROTHEL...
WAIT, NO, NO, NO, NO!
EXCUSE ME!
ビクッ
TWITCH
HUH ...?
FUJII-KUN?
新企画
CANDY CANDY
感謝デ
激安DAYが始まる・・
【長期間激安】がついに誕生
2/

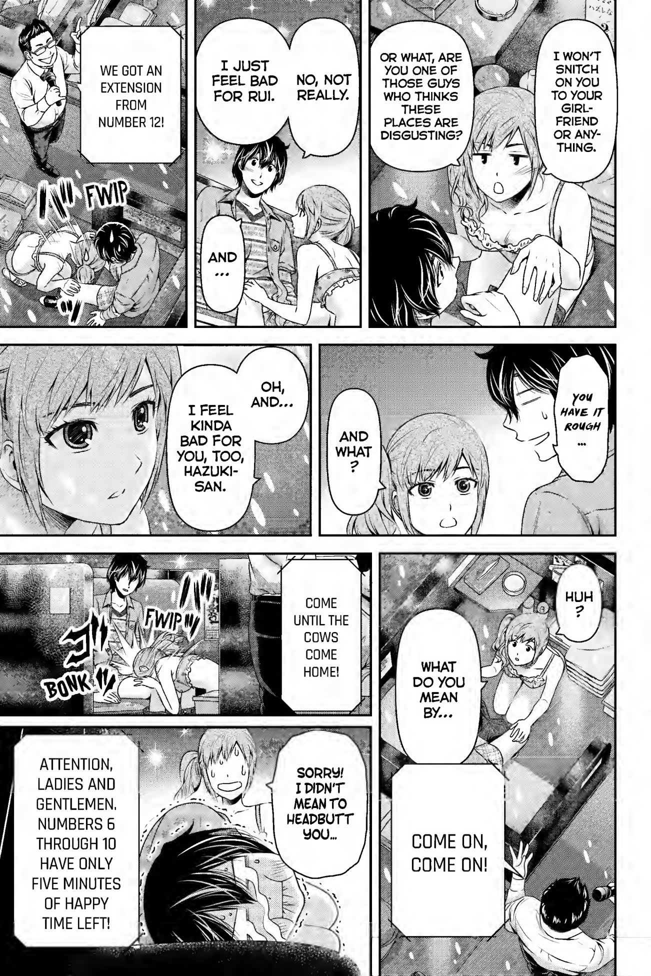
CHAPTER 143: MONEY AND GREED

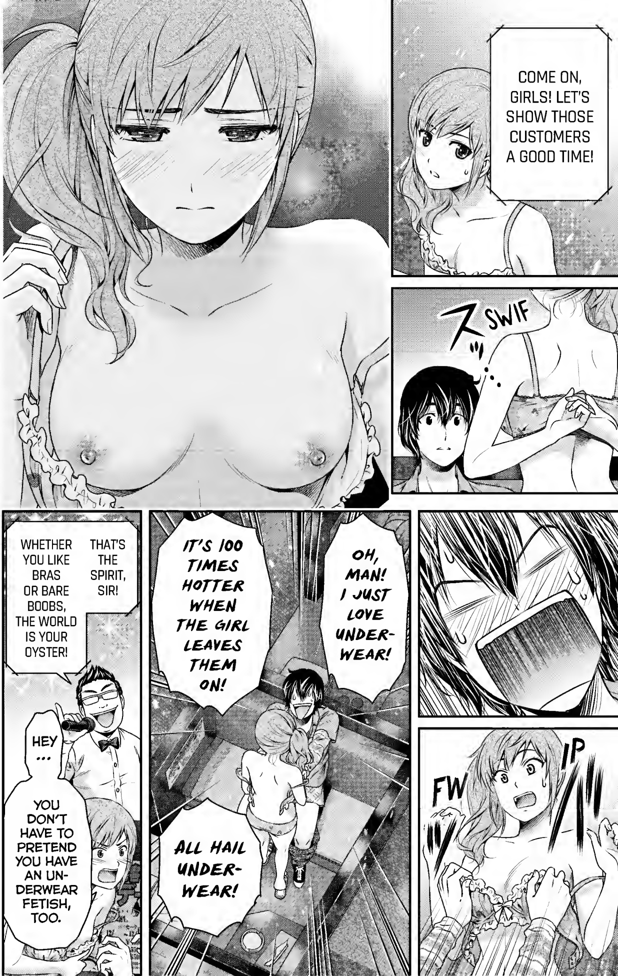

PEACH WONDERLAND
ALLLL RIGHT, NUMBER 7, NUMBER B! YOUR GIRLS ARE COMING!
WELCOME, WELCOME!
GROPE AND BE GROPED, SUCK AND BE SUCKED!
CHASE THE WHITE DRAGON!
LET'S SEE SOME HUSTLE OUT THERE TONIGHT!

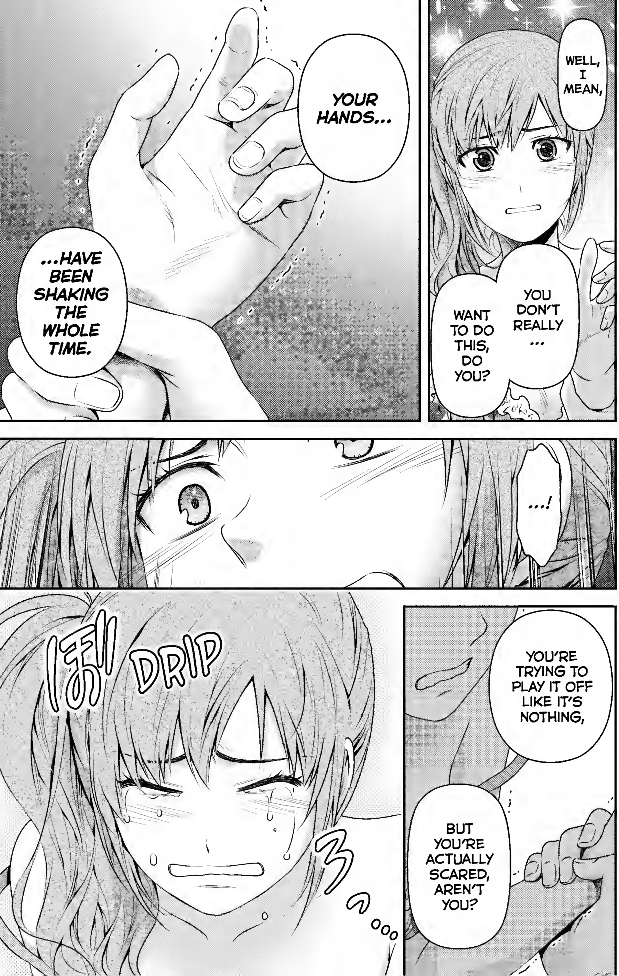

WH-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HUH? DON'T YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
WHAT, IS SHE NOT SATISFYING-
NO, NO, NO!
I WAS DRAGGED HERE BY SOME UPPERCLASSMEN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, HAZUKI-SAN?
THE HOST SAID A NEW GIRL STARTED TODAY...
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! NUMBER 3'S ENTERING HAPPY TIME!
PARDON ME...
I JUST STARTED WORKING HERE TODAY.
MY NAME'S ROSE.
ROSE...?
HELL OF A STAGE NAME...
DOES IT MATTER WHY I'M HERE?
YOU'RE A PAYING CUSTOMER, RIGHT?
LET'S GET ON WITH IT.

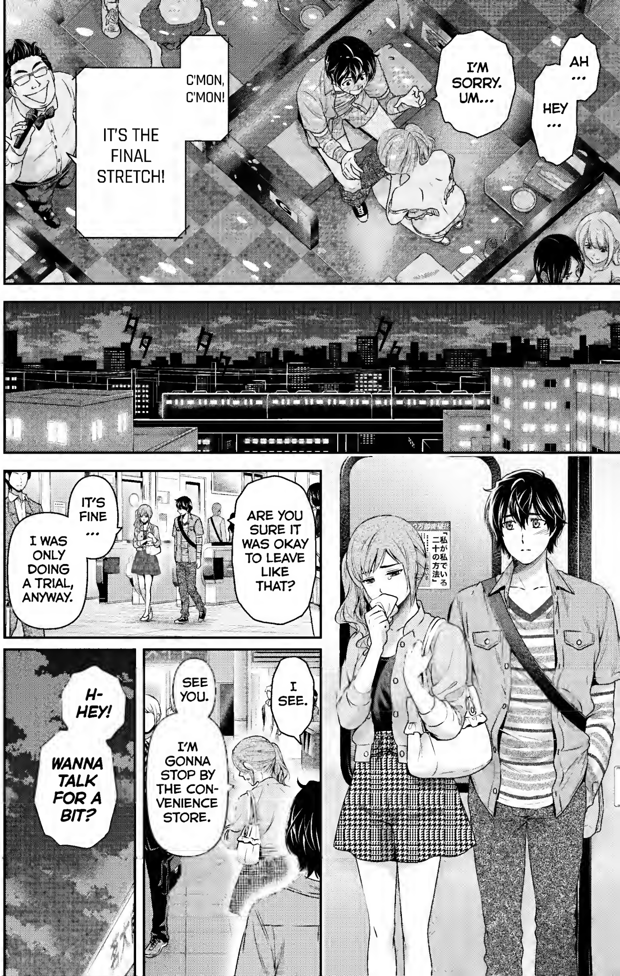

WE'LL START WITH KISSING...
WHOA, WHOA! WAIT!
NUH-UH! I'LL BE BETRAYING RUI IF I DO THAT!
HUH?!
I'M PRETTY SURE YOU ALREADY ARE JUST BY COMING HERE!
Y-YEAH, BUT...!
THE GUYS FORCED ME TO COME!
WELL, I WON'T GET PAID UNLESS I DO WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO.
JUST SHUT UP AND LET ME DO MY JOB!
I'LL DO MY BEST TO EARN MY FEE.
FWIP
HANG ON!
PRETEND!
AT LEAST JUST PRETEND TO DO IT!

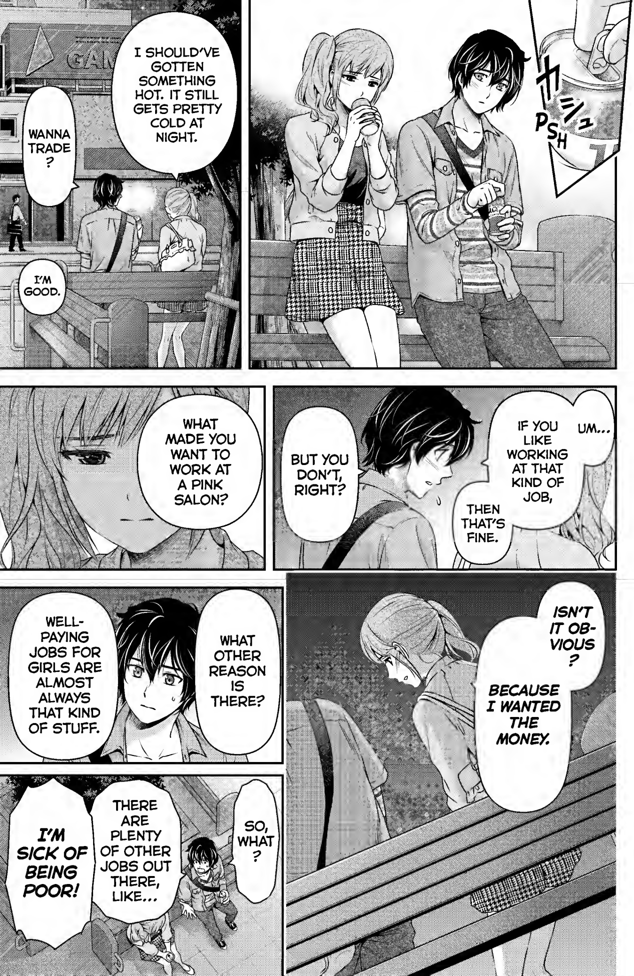

FINE.
MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF, THEN.
UNTZ
UNTZ
UNTZ
UNTZ
UNTZ
AH.
MM.
MMF.
AH...
OH, CRAP. I FEEL LIKE MOANING'S GONNA ACTUALLY PUT ME IN THE MOOD.
YOU'RE SO SERIOUS.

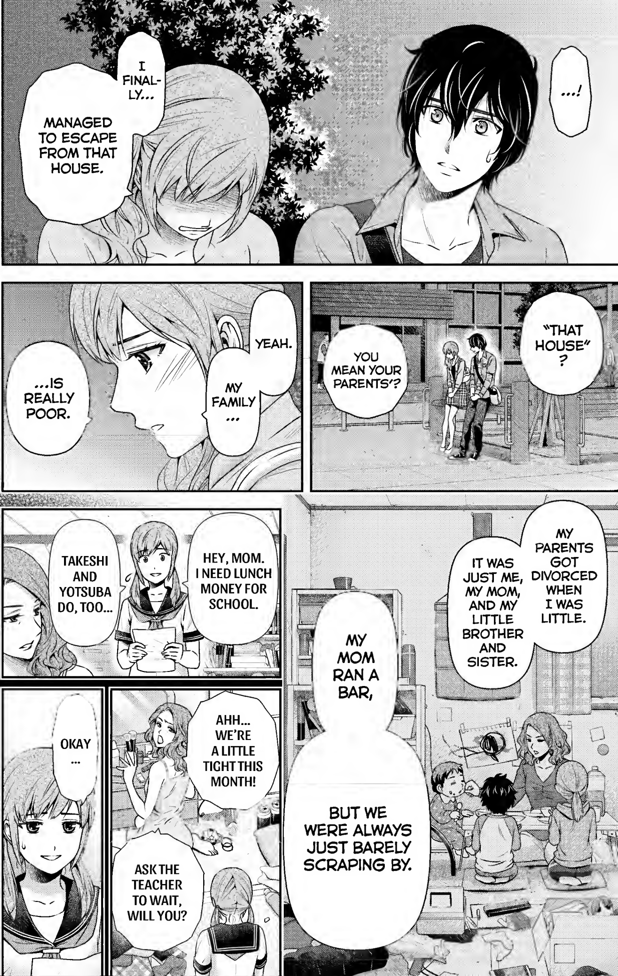

I WON'T SNITCH ON YOU TO YOUR GIRLFRIEND OR ANYTHING.
OR WHAT, ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO THINKS THESE PLACES ARE DISGUSTING?
NO, NOT REALLY.
I JUST FEEL BAD FOR RUI.
AND ...
WE GOT AN EXTENSION FROM NUMBER 12!
FWIP
YOU HAVE IT ROUGH ...
AND WHAT?
OH, AND...
I FEEL KINDA BAD FOR YOU, TOO, HAZUKI-SAN.
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY...
COME ON, COME ON!
COME UNTIL THE COWS COME HOME!
FWIP
BONK
SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO HEADBUTT YOU...
ATTENTION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. NUMBERS 6 THROUGH 10 HAVE ONLY FIVE MINUTES OF HAPPY TIME LEFT!

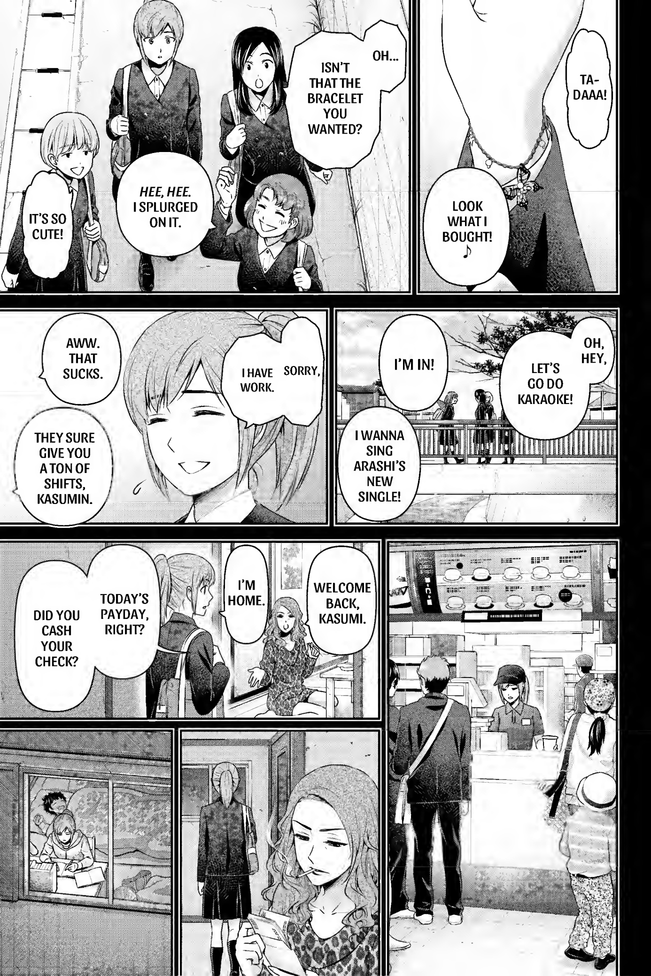

COME ON, GIRLS! LET'S SHOW THOSE CUSTOMERS A GOOD TIME!
SWIF
FWIP
OH, MAN! I JUST LOVE UNDERWEAR!
IT'S 100 TIMES HOTTER WHEN THE GIRL LEAVES THEM ON!
ALL HAIL UNDERWEAR!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, SIR!
WHETHER YOU LIKE BRAS OR BARE BOOBS, THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER!
HEY...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND YOU HAVE AN UNDERWEAR FETISH, TOO.

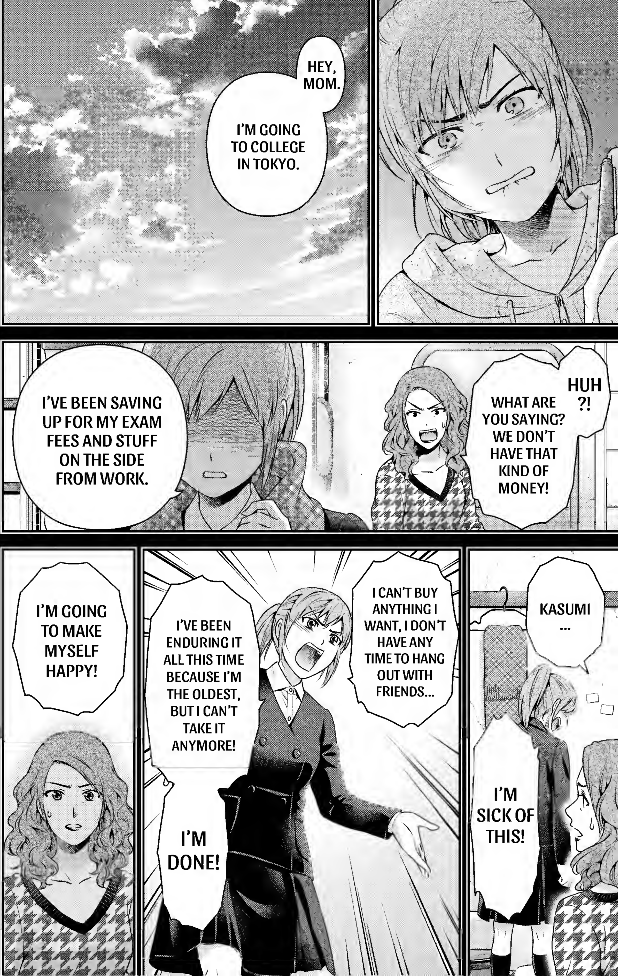

WELL, I MEAN,
YOU DON'T REALLY…
WANT TO DO THIS, DO YOU?
YOUR HANDS…
…HAVE BEEN SHAKING THE WHOLE TIME.
…!
YOU'RE TRYING TO PLAY IT OFF LIKE IT'S NOTHING,
BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY SCARED, AREN'T YOU?
ぼ!!
DRIP
ろっ…

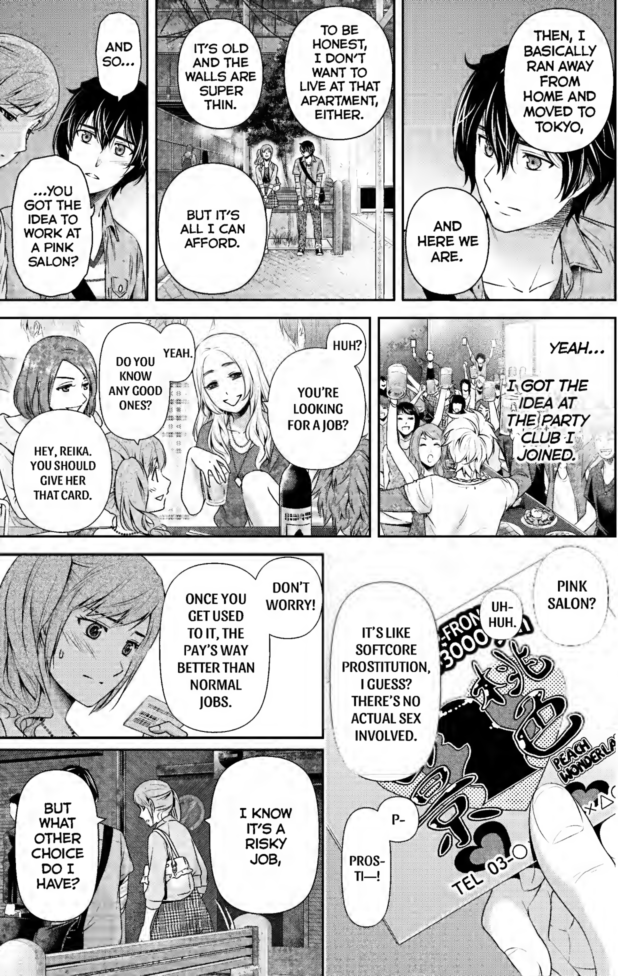

AH… HEY…
I'M SORRY. UM…
C'MON, C'MON!
IT'S THE FINAL STRETCH!
「私が私でいる二十の方法」
ARE YOU SURE IT WAS OKAY TO LEAVE LIKE THAT?
IT'S FINE… I WAS ONLY DOING A TRIAL, ANYWAY.
I SEE.
SEE YOU.
I'M GONNA STOP BY THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
H-HEY!
WANNA TALK FOR A BIT?

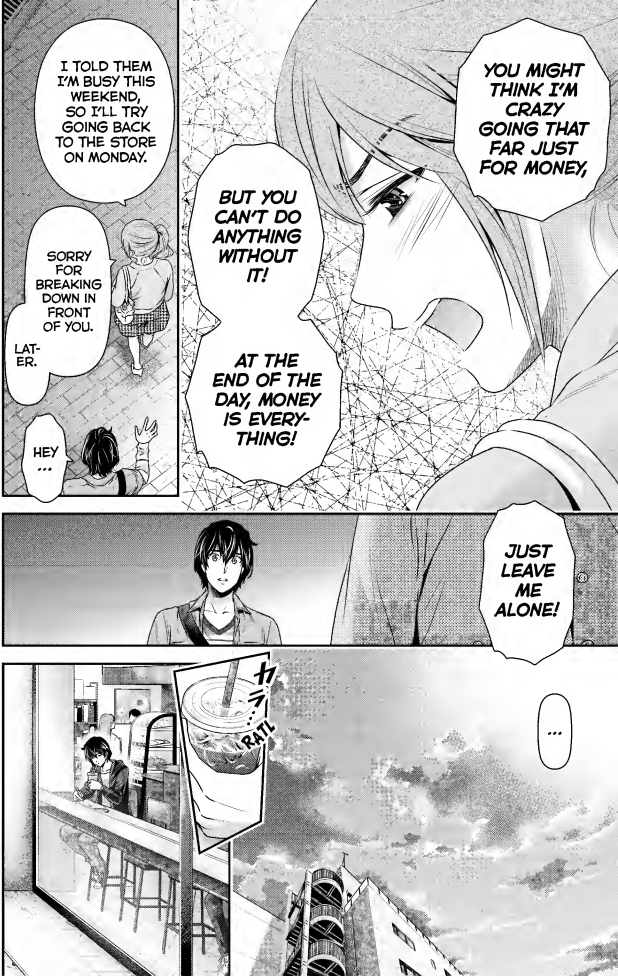

カシュ
PSH
I SHOULD'VE GOTTEN SOMETHING HOT. IT STILL GETS PRETTY COLD AT NIGHT.
WANNA TRADE?
I'M GOOD.
UM...
IF YOU LIKE WORKING AT THAT KIND OF JOB,
THEN THAT'S FINE.
BUT YOU DON'T, RIGHT?
WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO WORK AT A PINK SALON?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
BECAUSE I WANTED THE MONEY.
WHAT OTHER REASON IS THERE?
WELL-PAYING JOBS FOR GIRLS ARE ALMOST ALWAYS THAT KIND OF STUFF.
SO, WHAT?
THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER JOBS OUT THERE, LIKE...
I'M SICK OF BEING POOR!

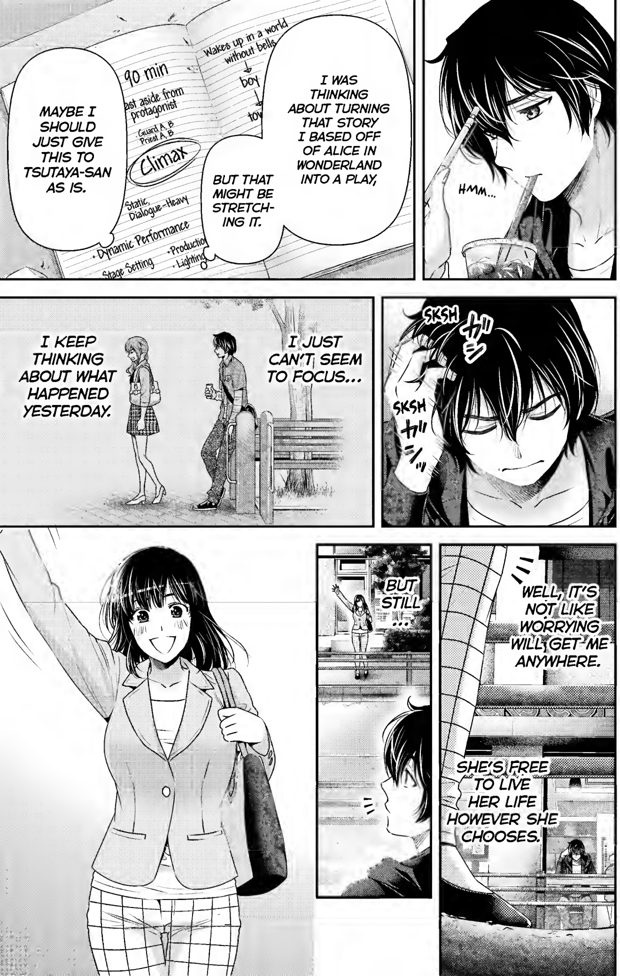

...!
I FINALLY...
MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM THAT HOUSE.
"THAT HOUSE"?
YOU MEAN YOUR PARENTS'?
YEAH.
MY FAMILY...
...IS REALLY POOR.
MY PARENTS GOT DIVORCED WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
IT WAS JUST ME, MY MOM, AND MY LITTLE BROTHER AND SISTER.
MY MOM RAN A BAR,
BUT WE WERE ALWAYS JUST BARELY SCRAPING BY.
HEY, MOM. I NEED LUNCH MONEY FOR SCHOOL.
TAKESHI AND YOTSUBA DO, TOO...
AHH... WE'RE A LITTLE TIGHT THIS MONTH!
ASK THE TEACHER TO WAIT, WILL YOU?
OKAY...

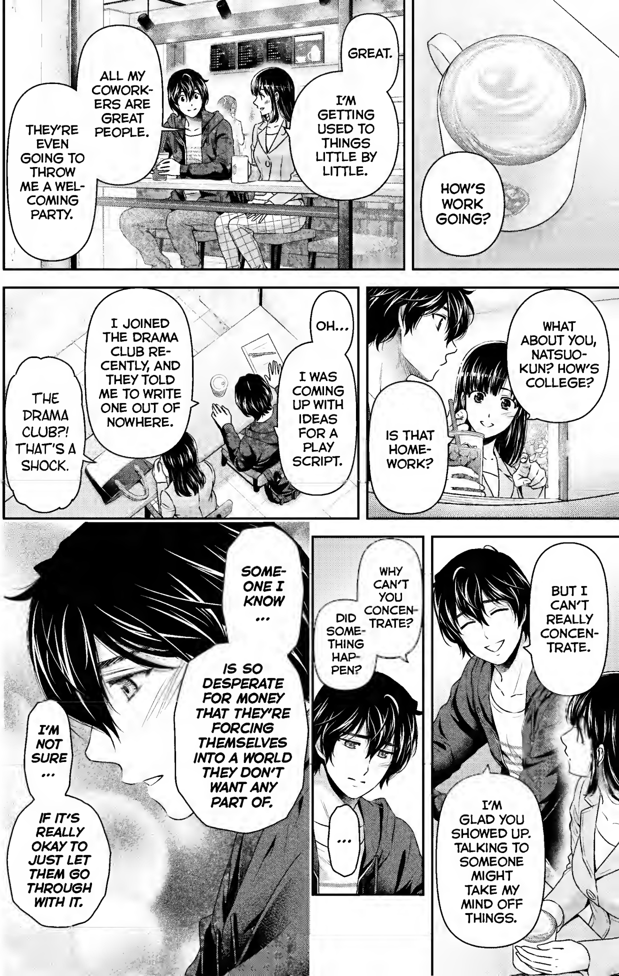

TA-DAAA!
LOOK WHAT I BOUGHT! ♪
OH... ISN'T THAT THE BRACELET YOU WANTED?
HEE, HEE. I SPLURGED ON IT.
IT'S SO CUTE!
OH, HEY, LET'S GO DO KARAOKE!
I'M IN!
I WANNA SING ARASHI'S NEW SINGLE!
SORRY, I HAVE WORK.
AWW. THAT SUCKS.
THEY SURE GIVE YOU A TON OF SHIFTS, KASUMIN.
WELCOME BACK, KASUMI.
I'M HOME.
TODAY'S PAYDAY, RIGHT?
DID YOU CASH YOUR CHECK?

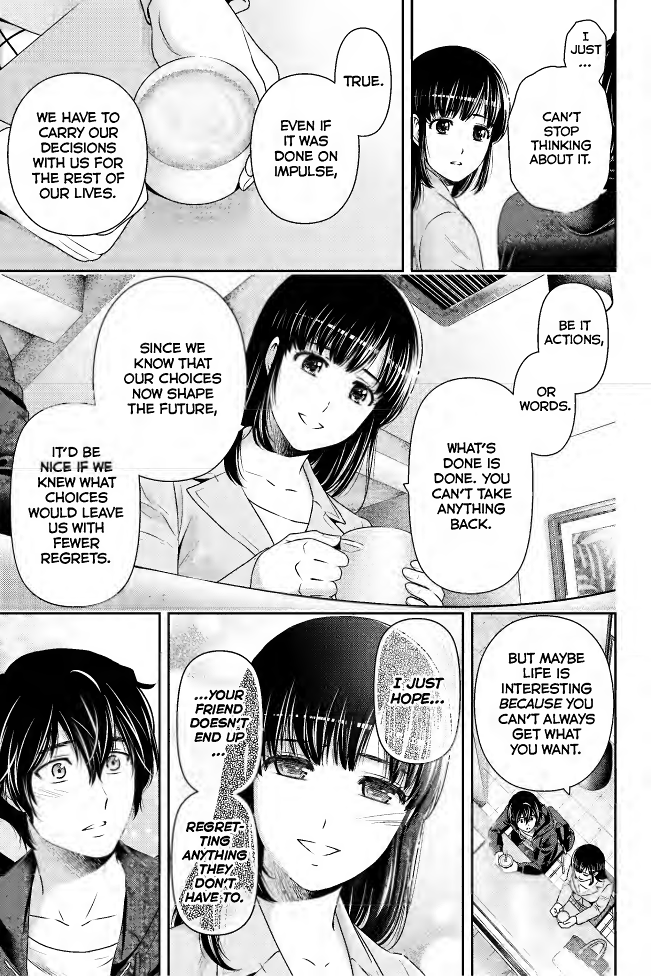

HEY, MOM.
I'M GOING TO COLLEGE IN TOKYO.
HUH?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY!
I'VE BEEN SAVING UP FOR MY EXAM FEES AND STUFF ON THE SIDE FROM WORK.
KASUMI...
I'M SICK OF THIS!
I CAN'T BUY ANYTHING I WANT, I DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS...
I'VE BEEN ENDURING IT ALL THIS TIME BECAUSE I'M THE OLDEST, BUT I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
I'M DONE!
I'M GOING TO MAKE MYSELF HAPPY!

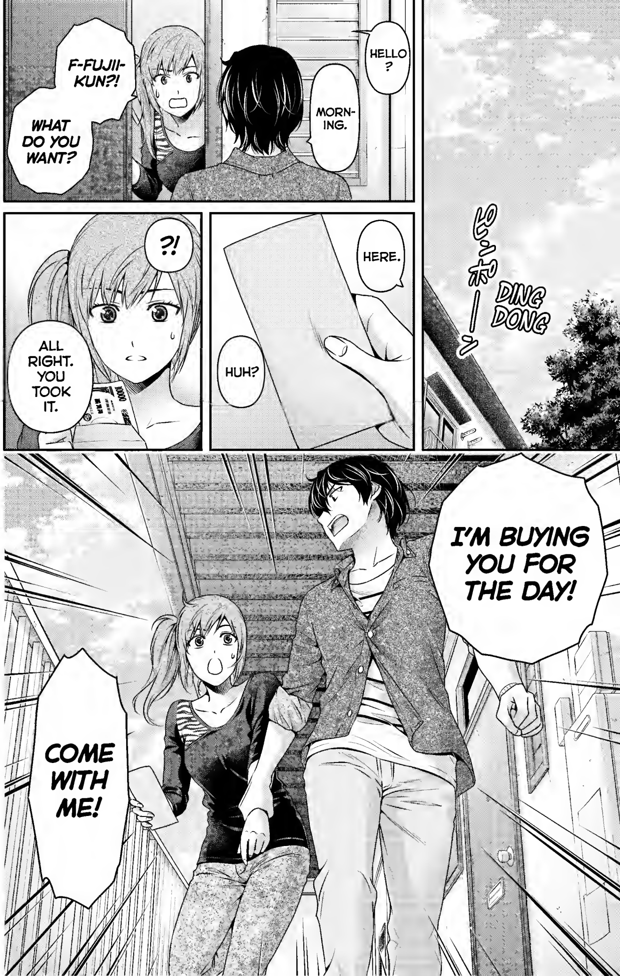

THEN, I BASICALLY RAN AWAY FROM HOME AND MOVED TO TOKYO,
AND HERE WE ARE.
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T WANT TO LIVE AT THAT APARTMENT, EITHER.
IT'S OLD AND THE WALLS ARE SUPER THIN.
BUT IT'S ALL I CAN AFFORD.
AND SO...
...YOU GOT THE IDEA TO WORK AT A PINK SALON?
YEAH...
I GOT THE IDEA AT THE PARTY CLUB I JOINED.
HUH?
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A JOB?
YEAH.
DO YOU KNOW ANY GOOD ONES?
HEY, REIKA. YOU SHOULD GIVE HER THAT CARD.
PINK SALON?
UH-HUH.
IT'S LIKE SOFTCORE PROSTITUTION, I GUESS? THERE'S NO ACTUAL SEX INVOLVED.
P-
PROS-TI—!
PEACH WONDERLA
TEL 03-○
DON'T WORRY!
ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT, THE PAY'S WAY BETTER THAN NORMAL JOBS.
I KNOW IT'S A RISKY JOB,
BUT WHAT OTHER CHOICE DO I HAVE?


YOU MIGHT THINK I'M CRAZY GOING THAT FAR JUST FOR MONEY,
BUT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT IT!
AT THE END OF THE DAY, MONEY IS EVERYTHING!
I TOLD THEM I'M BUSY THIS WEEKEND, SO I'LL TRY GOING BACK TO THE STORE ON MONDAY.
SORRY FOR BREAKING DOWN IN FRONT OF YOU.
LATER.
HEY ...
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
...
カラ
...RATL

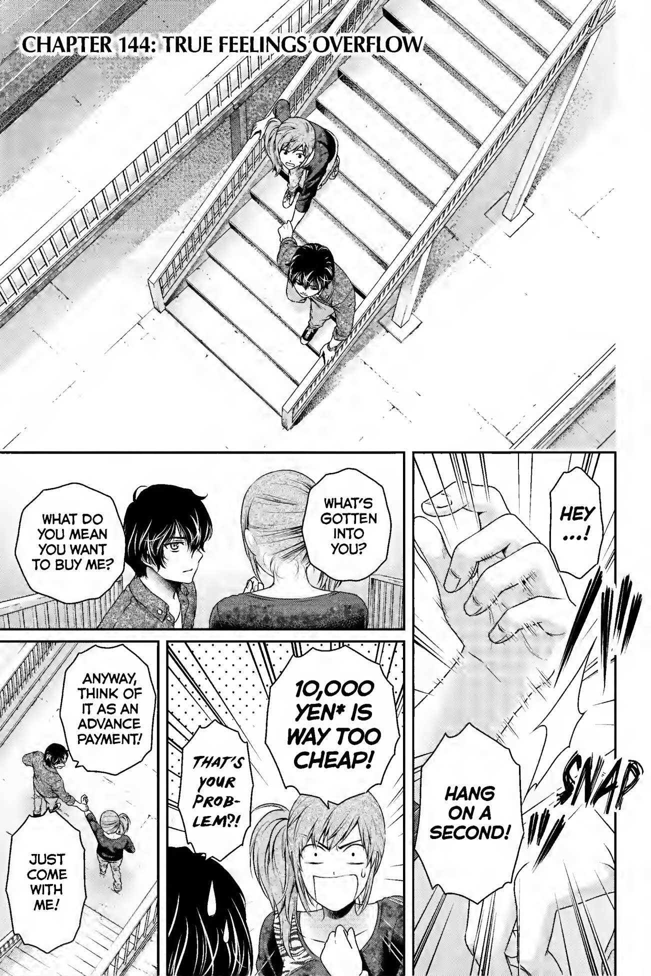

HMM...
I WAS THINKING ABOUT TURNING THAT STORY I BASED OFF OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND INTO A PLAY,
BUT THAT MIGHT BE STRETCHING IT.
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GIVE THIS TO TSUTAYA-SAN AS IS.
Wakes up in a world without bells
boy
tov
90 min
ast aside from protagonist
Guard A, B
Priest A, B
Climax
Static, Dialogue-Heavy
Dynamic Performance
Stage Setting
Productio
Lighting
SKSH
ガシ
SKSH
ガシ
I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO FOCUS...
I KEEP THINKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE WORRYING WILL GET ME ANYWHERE.
SHE'S FREE TO LIVE HER LIFE HOWEVER SHE CHOOSES.
BUT STILL...

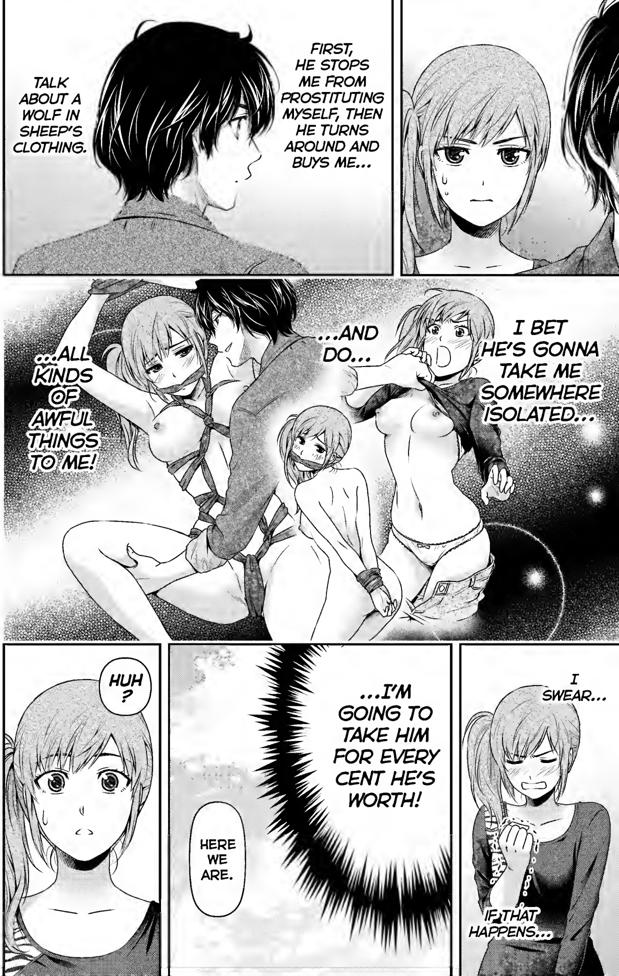

HOW'S WORK GOING?
GREAT.
I'M GETTING USED TO THINGS LITTLE BY LITTLE.
ALL MY COWORKERS ARE GREAT PEOPLE.
THEY'RE EVEN GOING TO THROW ME A WELCOMING PARTY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, NATSUO-KUN? HOW'S COLLEGE?
IS THAT HOMEWORK?
OH...
I WAS COMING UP WITH IDEAS FOR A PLAY SCRIPT.
I JOINED THE DRAMA CLUB RECENTLY, AND THEY TOLD ME TO WRITE ONE OUT OF NOWHERE.
THE DRAMA CLUB?! THAT'S A SHOCK.
BUT I CAN'T REALLY CONCENTRATE.
I'M GLAD YOU SHOWED UP. TALKING TO SOMEONE MIGHT TAKE MY MIND OFF THINGS.
WHY CAN'T YOU CONCENTRATE?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
...
SOMEONE I KNOW...
IS SO DESPERATE FOR MONEY THAT THEY'RE FORCING THEMSELVES INTO A WORLD THEY DON'T WANT ANY PART OF.
I'M NOT SURE...
IF IT'S REALLY OKAY TO JUST LET THEM GO THROUGH WITH IT.

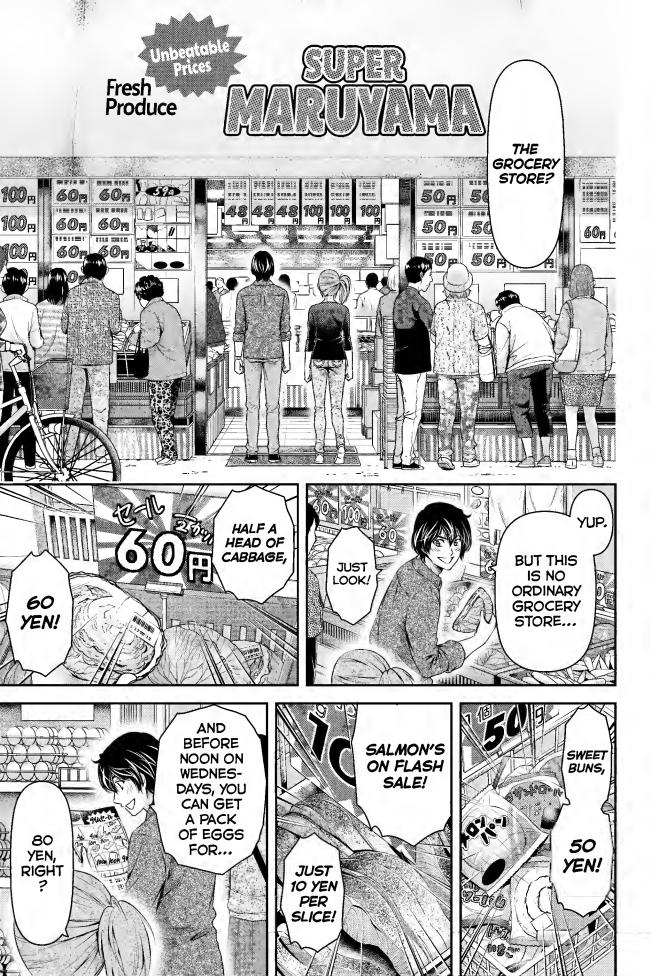

I JUST ... CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT.
TRUE.
EVEN IF IT WAS DONE ON IMPULSE,
WE HAVE TO CARRY OUR DECISIONS WITH US FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.
BE IT ACTIONS,
OR WORDS.
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. YOU CAN'T TAKE ANYTHING BACK.
SINCE WE KNOW THAT OUR CHOICES NOW SHAPE THE FUTURE,
IT'D BE NICE IF WE KNEW WHAT CHOICES WOULD LEAVE US WITH FEWER REGRETS.
BUT MAYBE LIFE IS INTERESTING *BECAUSE* YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT.
I JUST HOPE...
...YOUR FRIEND DOESN'T END UP ...
REGRETTING ANYTHING THEY DON'T HAVE TO.

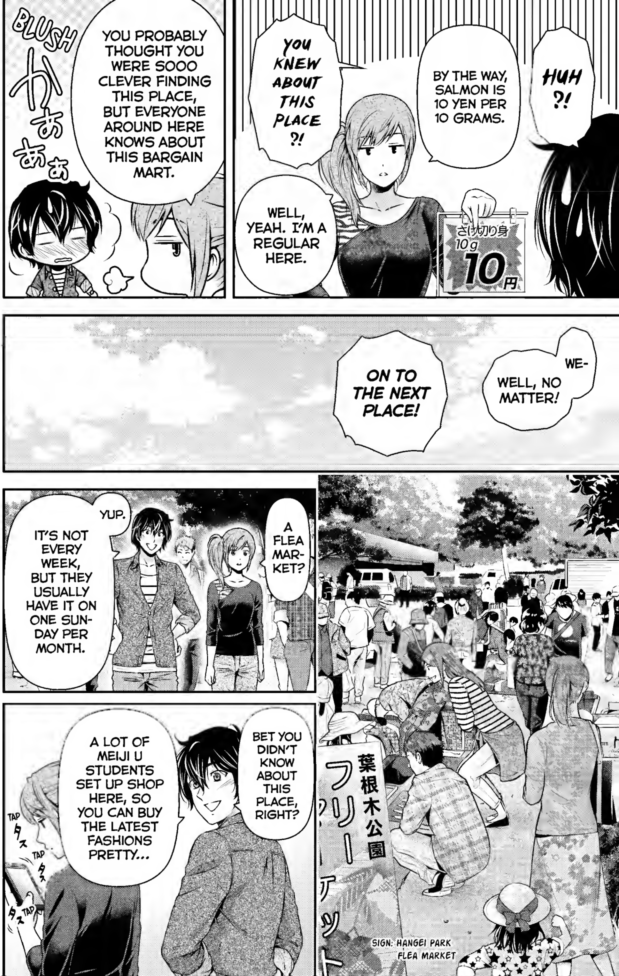

ピンポーン
DING DONG
HELLO?
MORNING.
F-FUJII-KUN?!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HERE.
HUH?
?!
ALL RIGHT. YOU TOOK IT.
I'M BUYING YOU FOR THE DAY!
COME WITH ME!

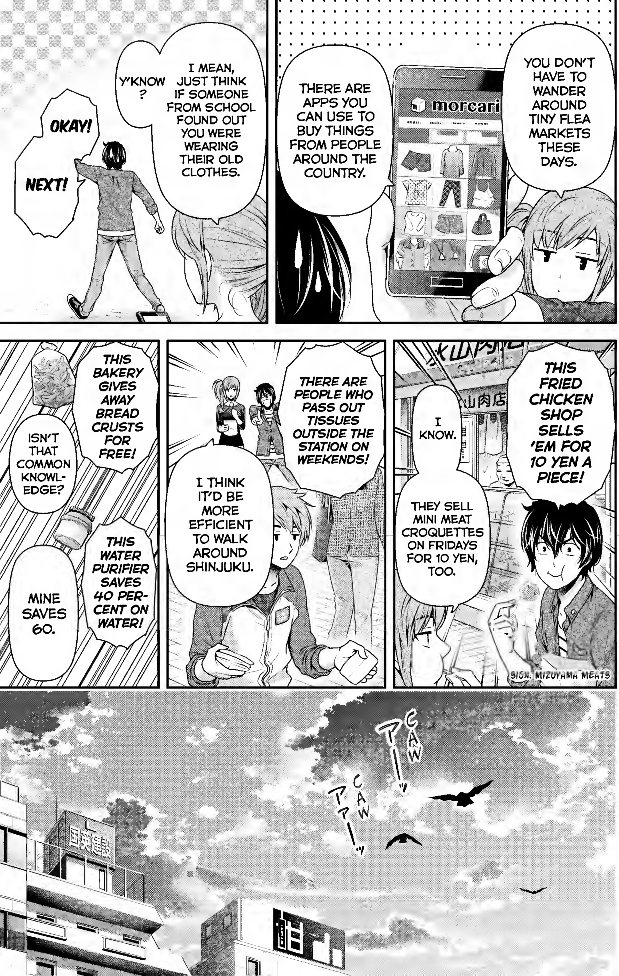
CHAPTER 144: TRUE FEELINGS OVERFLOW

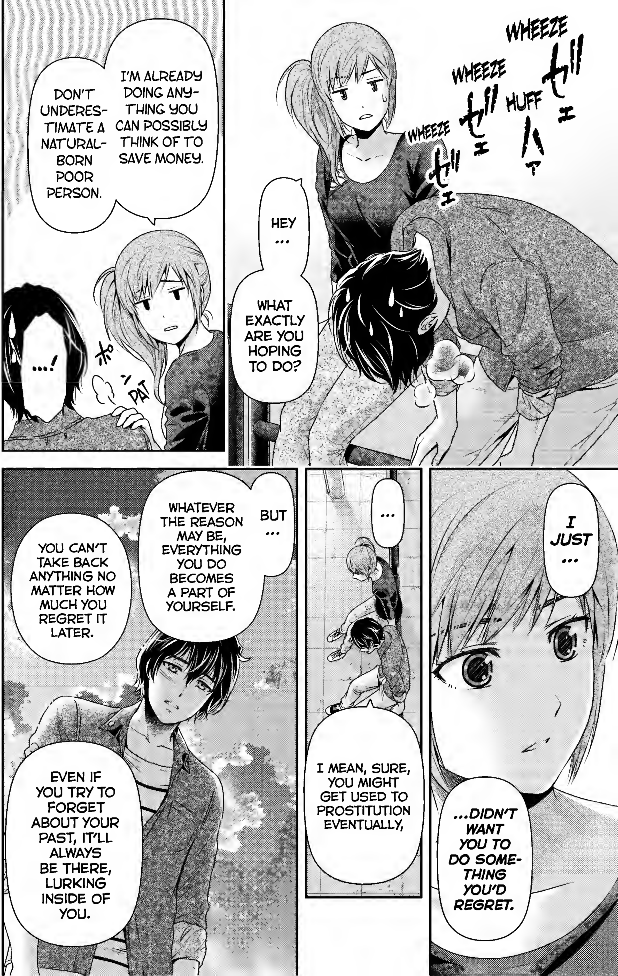

HEY...!
SNAP
HANG ON A SECOND!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO BUY ME?
10,000 YEN* IS WAY TOO CHEAP!
THAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM?!
ANYWAY, THINK OF IT AS AN ADVANCE PAYMENT!
JUST COME WITH ME!

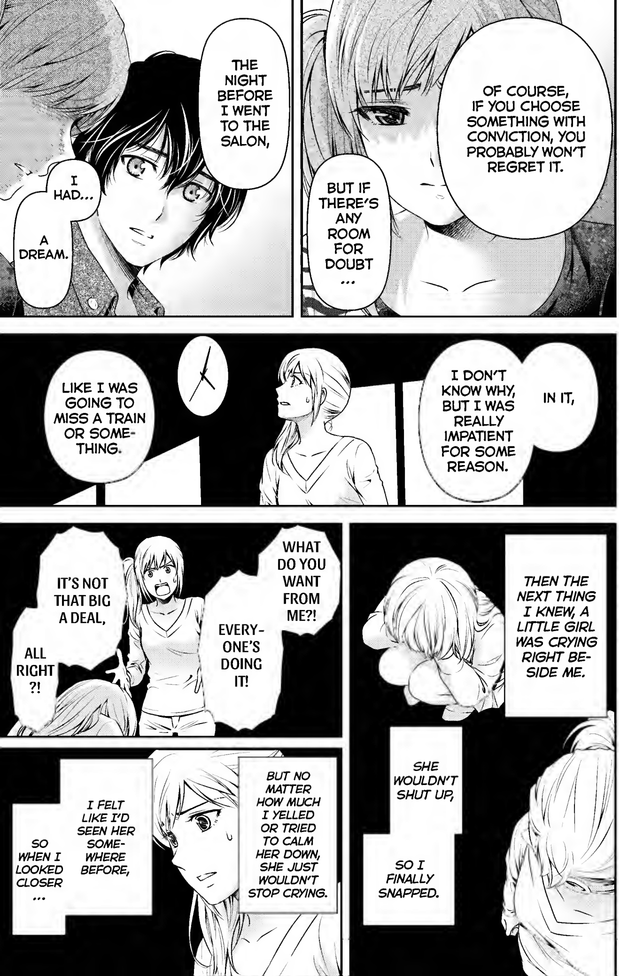

FIRST, HE STOPS ME FROM PROSTITUTING MYSELF, THEN HE TURNS AROUND AND BUYS ME...
TALK ABOUT A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.
I BET HE'S GONNA TAKE ME SOMEWHERE ISOLATED...
...AND DO...
...ALL KINDS OF AWFUL THINGS TO ME!
I SWEAR...
IF THAT HAPPENS...
...I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM FOR EVERY CENT HE'S WORTH!
HERE WE ARE.
HUH?

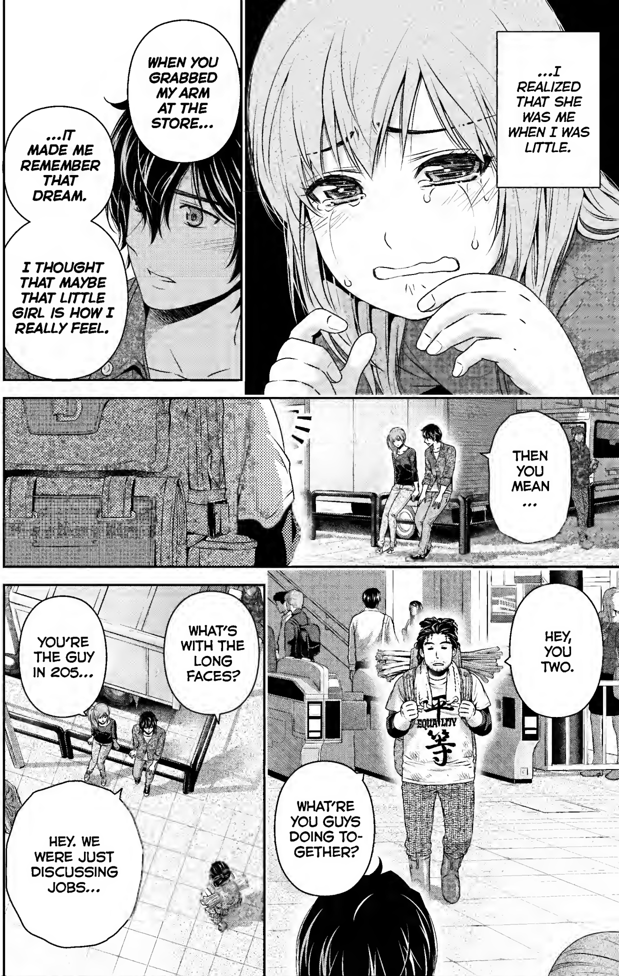

SUPER MARUYAMA
Unbeatable Prices
Fresh Produce
THE GROCERY STORE?
YUP.
BUT THIS IS NO ORDINARY GROCERY STORE...
JUST LOOK!
セール 60円
HALF A HEAD OF CABBAGE,
60 YEN!
SWEET BUNS,
50 YEN!
SALMON'S ON FLASH SALE!
JUST 10 YEN PER SLICE!
AND BEFORE NOON ON WEDNES-DAYS, YOU CAN GET A PACK OF EGGS FOR...
80 YEN, RIGHT?

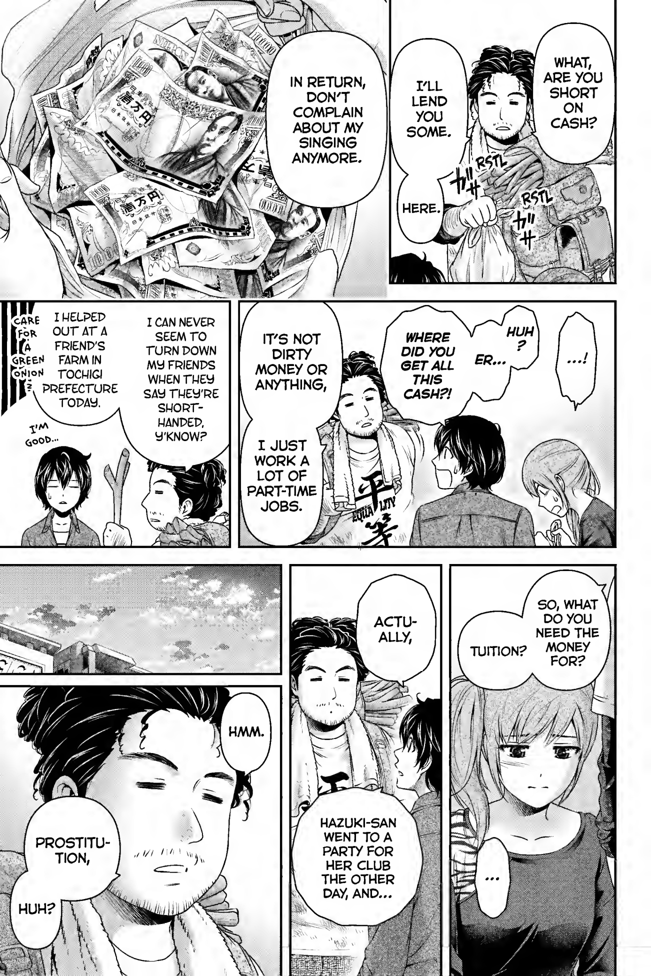

HUH ?!
BY THE WAY, SALMON IS 10 YEN PER 10 GRAMS.
さけ切り身 10g 10円
YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS PLACE ?!
WELL, YEAH. I'M A REGULAR HERE.
YOU PROBABLY THOUGHT YOU WERE SOOO CLEVER FINDING THIS PLACE, BUT EVERYONE AROUND HERE KNOWS ABOUT THIS BARGAIN MART.
BLUSH かあああ
WE- WELL, NO MATTER!
ON TO THE NEXT PLACE!
葉根木公園 フリー
SIGN: HANGEI PARK FLEA MARKET
A FLEA MARKET?
YUP.
IT'S NOT EVERY WEEK, BUT THEY USUALLY HAVE IT ON ONE SUNDAY PER MONTH.
BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE, RIGHT?
A LOT OF MEIJI U STUDENTS SET UP SHOP HERE, SO YOU CAN BUY THE LATEST FASHIONS PRETTY...
TAP タス
TAP タス
TAP タス

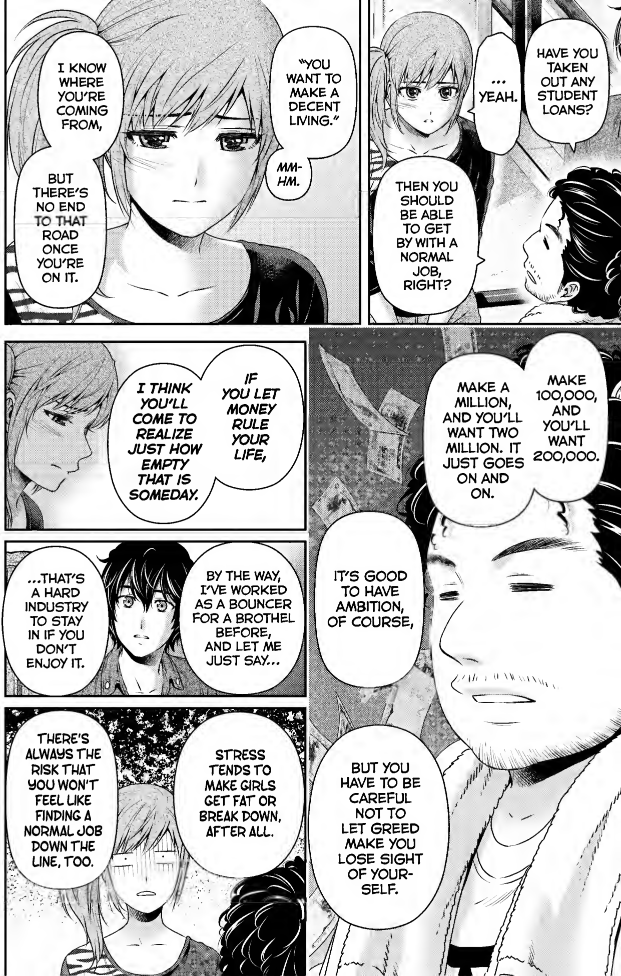

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WANDER AROUND TINY FLEA MARKETS THESE DAYS.
morcari
THERE ARE APPS YOU CAN USE TO BUY THINGS FROM PEOPLE AROUND THE COUNTRY.
I MEAN, JUST THINK IF SOMEONE FROM SCHOOL FOUND OUT YOU WERE WEARING THEIR OLD CLOTHES.
Y'KNOW?
OKAY!
NEXT!
THIS FRIED CHICKEN SHOP SELLS 'EM FOR 10 YEN A PIECE!
I KNOW.
THEY SELL MINI MEAT CROQUETTES ON FRIDAYS FOR 10 YEN, TOO.
SIGN: MIZUYAMA MEATS
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO PASS OUT TISSUES OUTSIDE THE STATION ON WEEKENDS!
I THINK IT'D BE MORE EFFICIENT TO WALK AROUND SHINJUKU.
THIS BAKERY GIVES AWAY BREAD CRUSTS FOR FREE!
ISN'T THAT COMMON KNOWLEDGE?
THIS WATER PURIFIER SAVES 40 PERCENT ON WATER!
MINE SAVES 60.
CAW
CAW

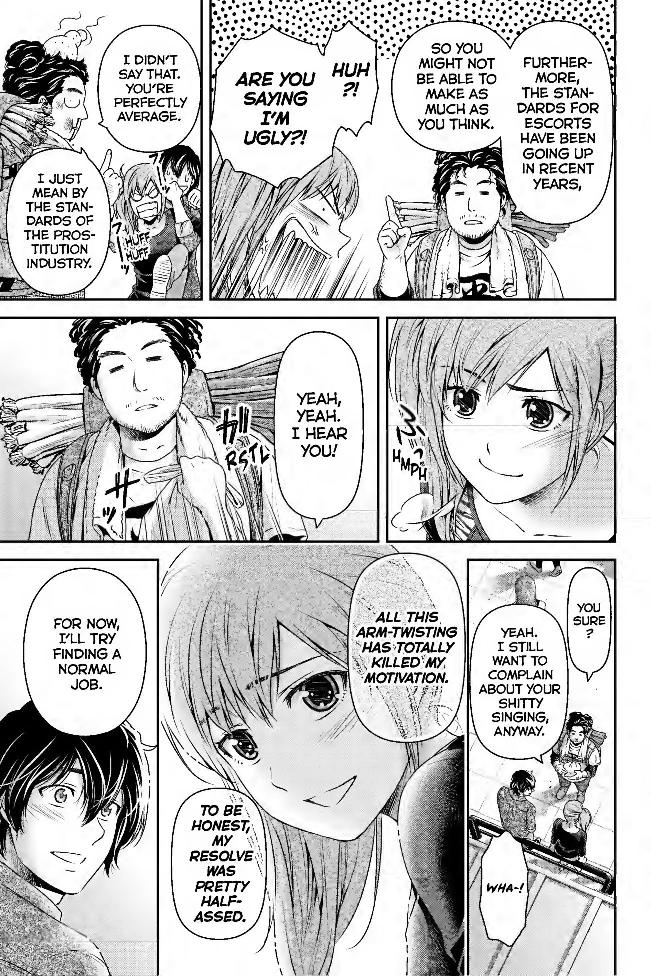

WHEEZE ゼェ
WHEEZE ゼェ
HUFF ハァ
WHEEZE ゼェ
HEY …
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU HOPING TO DO?
I'M ALREADY DOING ANYTHING YOU CAN POSSIBLY THINK OF TO SAVE MONEY.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE A NATURAL-BORN POOR PERSON.
…!
ポン PAT
I JUST …
…DIDN'T WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING YOU'D REGRET.
…
I MEAN, SURE, YOU MIGHT GET USED TO PROSTITUTION EVENTUALLY,
BUT …
WHATEVER THE REASON MAY BE, EVERYTHING YOU DO BECOMES A PART OF YOURSELF.
YOU CAN'T TAKE BACK ANYTHING NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU REGRET IT LATER.
EVEN IF YOU TRY TO FORGET ABOUT YOUR PAST, IT'LL ALWAYS BE THERE, LURKING INSIDE OF YOU.

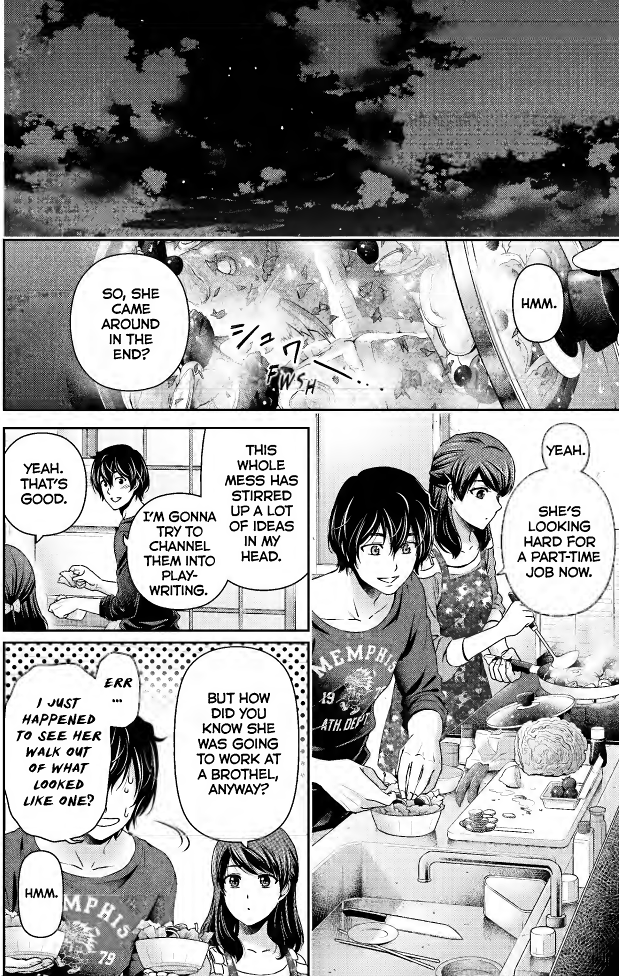

OF COURSE, IF YOU CHOOSE SOMETHING WITH CONVICTION, YOU PROBABLY WON'T REGRET IT.
BUT IF THERE'S ANY ROOM FOR DOUBT...
THE NIGHT BEFORE I WENT TO THE SALON,
I HAD...
A DREAM.
IN IT,
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I WAS REALLY IMPATIENT FOR SOME REASON.
LIKE I WAS GOING TO MISS A TRAIN OR SOMETHING.
THEN THE NEXT THING I KNEW, A LITTLE GIRL WAS CRYING RIGHT BESIDE ME.
SHE WOULDN'T SHUT UP,
SO I FINALLY SNAPPED.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!
EVERYONE'S DOING IT!
IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL,
ALL RIGHT?!
BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I YELLED OR TRIED TO CALM HER DOWN, SHE JUST WOULDN'T STOP CRYING.
I FELT LIKE I'D SEEN HER SOMEWHERE BEFORE,
SO WHEN I LOOKED CLOSER...

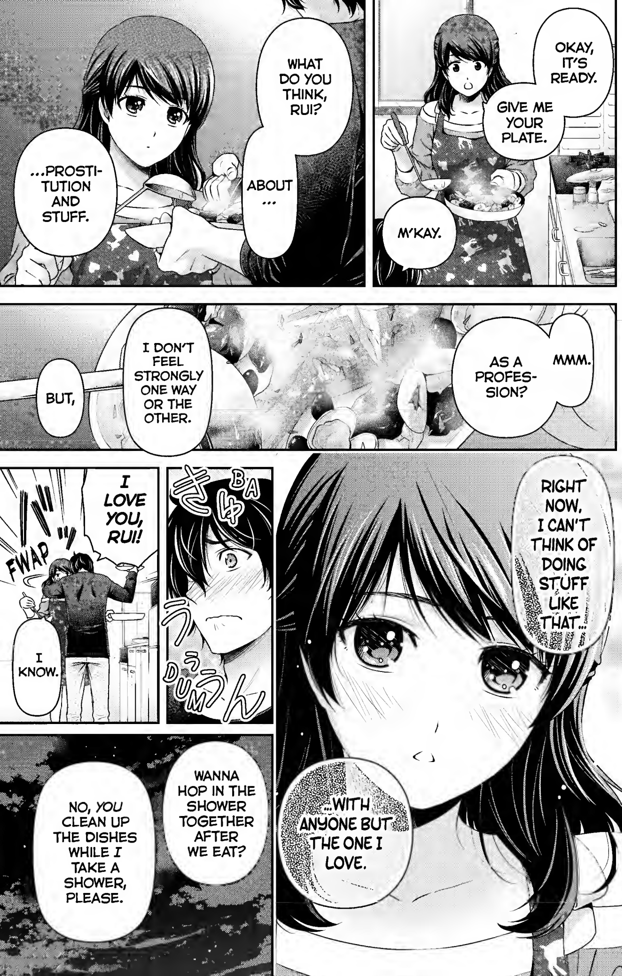

...I REALIZED THAT SHE WAS ME WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
WHEN YOU GRABBED MY ARM AT THE STORE...
...IT MADE ME REMEMBER THAT DREAM.
I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE THAT LITTLE GIRL IS HOW I REALLY FEEL.
THEN YOU MEAN ...
HEY, YOU TWO.
平 EQUALITY 等
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING TOGETHER?
WHAT'S WITH THE LONG FACES?
YOU'RE THE GUY IN 205...
HEY. WE WERE JUST DISCUSSING JOBS...

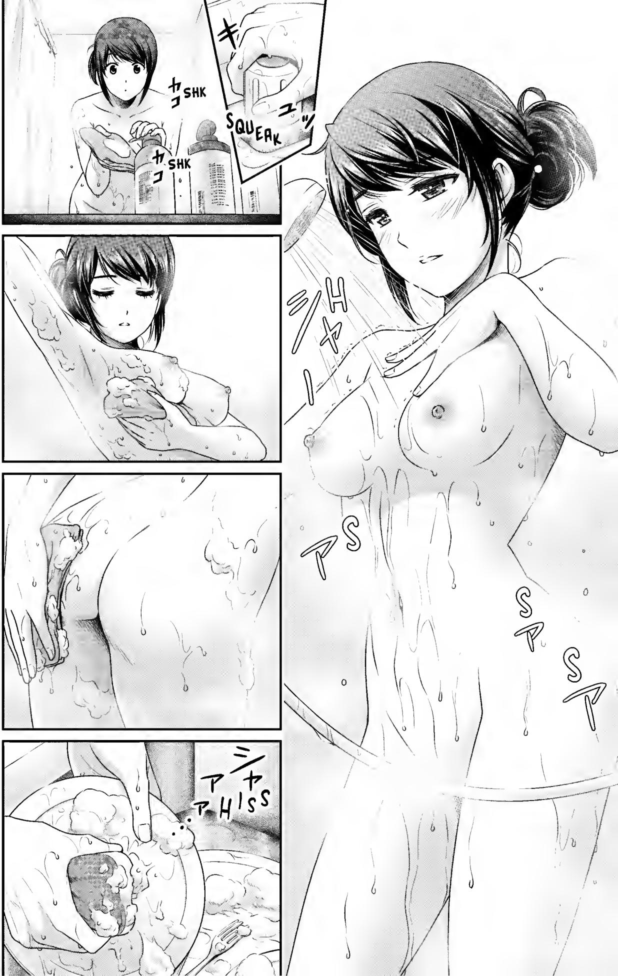

WHAT, ARE YOU SHORT ON CASH?
I'LL LEND YOU SOME.
HERE.
RSTL
ガサ
RSTL
ガサ
IN RETURN, DON'T COMPLAIN ABOUT MY SINGING ANYMORE.
...!
HUH? ER...
WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THIS CASH?!
IT'S NOT DIRTY MONEY OR ANYTHING,
I JUST WORK A LOT OF PART-TIME JOBS.
I CAN NEVER SEEM TO TURN DOWN MY FRIENDS WHEN THEY SAY THEY'RE SHORT-HANDED, Y'KNOW?
I HELPED OUT AT A FRIEND'S FARM IN TOCHIGI PREFECTURE TODAY.
CARE FOR A GREEN ONION?
I'M GOOD...
SO, WHAT DO YOU NEED THE MONEY FOR?
TUITION?
...
ACTUALLY,
HAZUKI-SAN WENT TO A PARTY FOR HER CLUB THE OTHER DAY, AND...
HMM.
PROSTITUTION,
HUH?

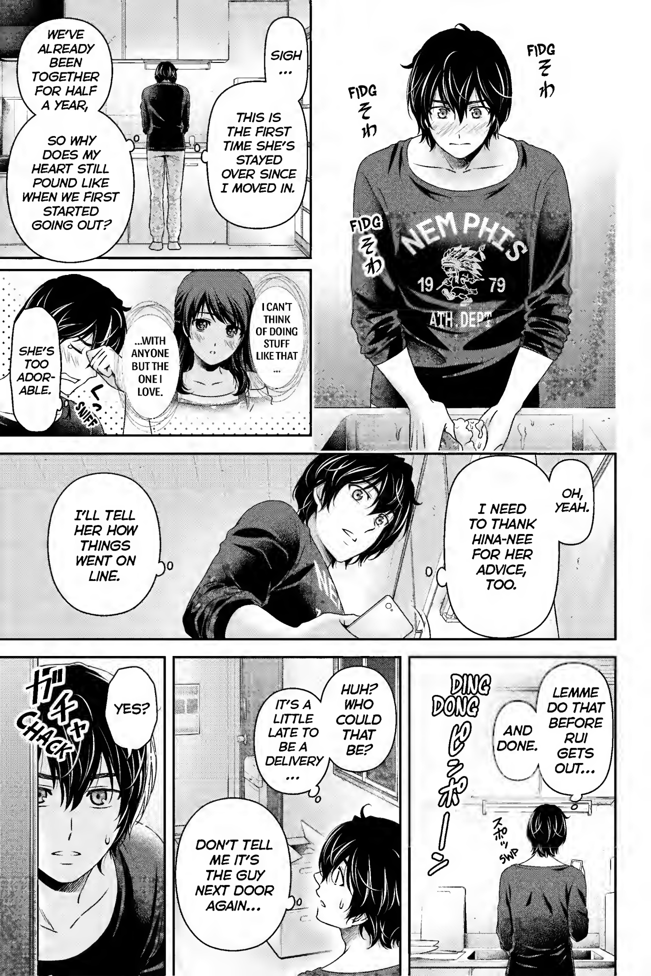

HAVE YOU TAKEN OUT ANY STUDENT LOANS?
... YEAH.
THEN YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET BY WITH A NORMAL JOB, RIGHT?
"YOU WANT TO MAKE A DECENT LIVING."
MM-HM.
I KNOW WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM,
BUT THERE'S NO END TO THAT ROAD ONCE YOU'RE ON IT.
MAKE 100,000, AND YOU'LL WANT 200,000.
MAKE A MILLION, AND YOU'LL WANT TWO MILLION. IT JUST GOES ON AND ON.
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE AMBITION, OF COURSE,
BUT YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET GREED MAKE YOU LOSE SIGHT OF YOURSELF.
IF YOU LET MONEY RULE YOUR LIFE,
I THINK YOU'LL COME TO REALIZE JUST HOW EMPTY THAT IS SOMEDAY.
BY THE WAY, I'VE WORKED AS A BOUNCER FOR A BROTHEL BEFORE, AND LET ME JUST SAY...
...THAT'S A HARD INDUSTRY TO STAY IN IF YOU DON'T ENJOY IT.
STRESS TENDS TO MAKE GIRLS GET FAT OR BREAK DOWN, AFTER ALL.
THERE'S ALWAYS THE RISK THAT YOU WON'T FEEL LIKE FINDING A NORMAL JOB DOWN THE LINE, TOO.

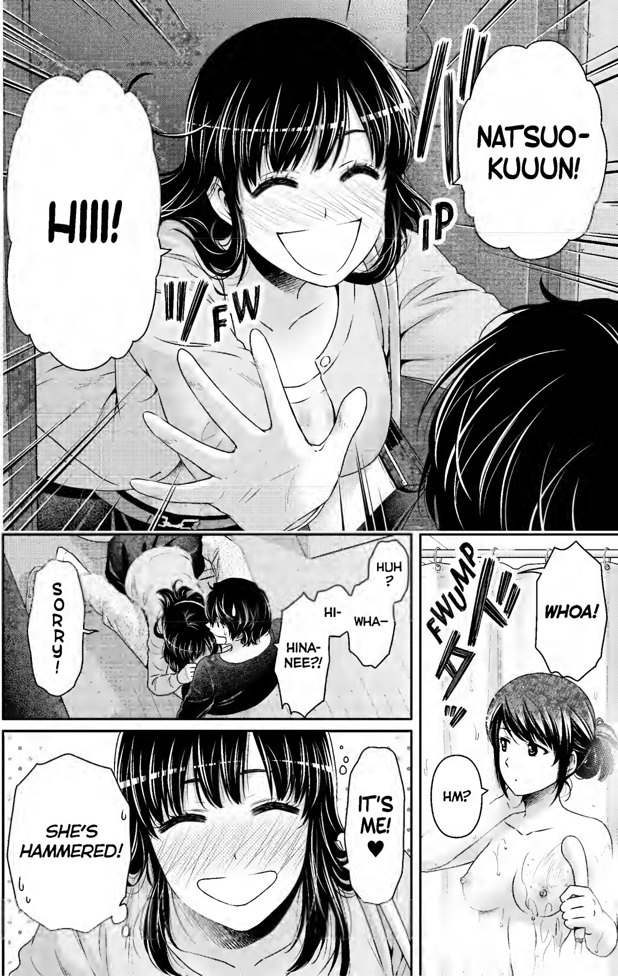

FURTHERMORE, THE STANDARDS FOR ESCORTS HAVE BEEN GOING UP IN RECENT YEARS,
SO YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE AS MUCH AS YOU THINK.
HUH ?!
ARE YOU SAYING I'M UGLY?!
I DIDN'T SAY THAT. YOU'RE PERFECTLY AVERAGE.
I JUST MEAN BY THE STANDARDS OF THE PROSTITUTION INDUSTRY.
HUFF HUFF
HMPH
YEAH, YEAH. I HEAR YOU!
RSTL
YOU SURE?
YEAH. I STILL WANT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT YOUR SHITTY SINGING, ANYWAY.
WHA-!
ALL THIS ARM-TWISTING HAS TOTALLY KILLED MY MOTIVATION.
TO BE HONEST, MY RESOLVE WAS PRETTY HALF-ASSED.
FOR NOW, I'LL TRY FINDING A NORMAL JOB.

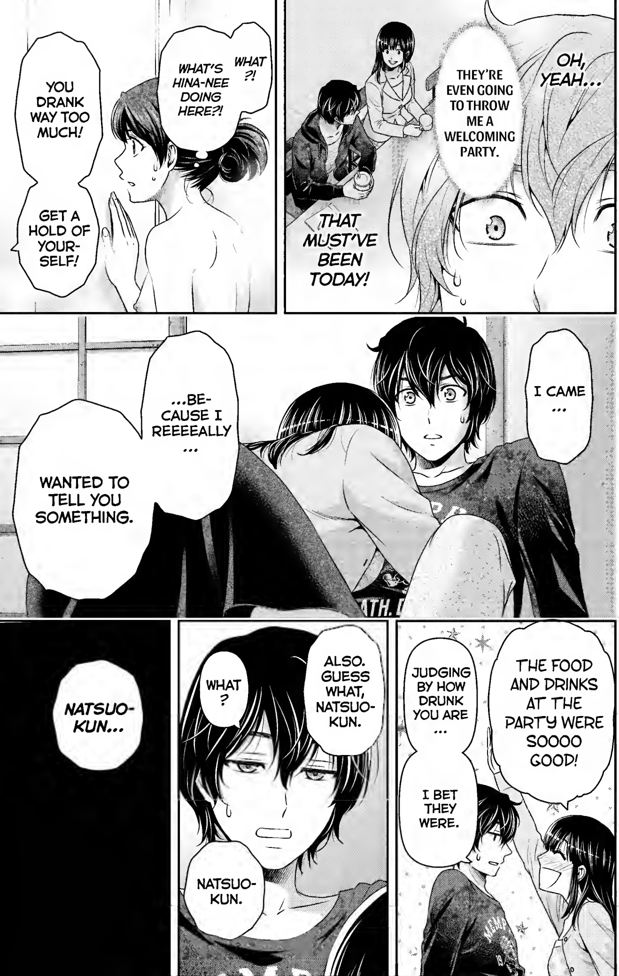

HMM.
SO, SHE CAME AROUND IN THE END?
シュワ—…
FWSH
YEAH.
SHE'S LOOKING HARD FOR A PART-TIME JOB NOW.
THIS WHOLE MESS HAS STIRRED UP A LOT OF IDEAS IN MY HEAD.
I'M GONNA TRY TO CHANNEL THEM INTO PLAYWRITING.
YEAH. THAT'S GOOD.
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW SHE WAS GOING TO WORK AT A BROTHEL, ANYWAY?
ERR…
I JUST HAPPENED TO SEE HER WALK OUT OF WHAT LOOKED LIKE ONE?
HMM.
MEMPHIS 19 ATH. DEPT

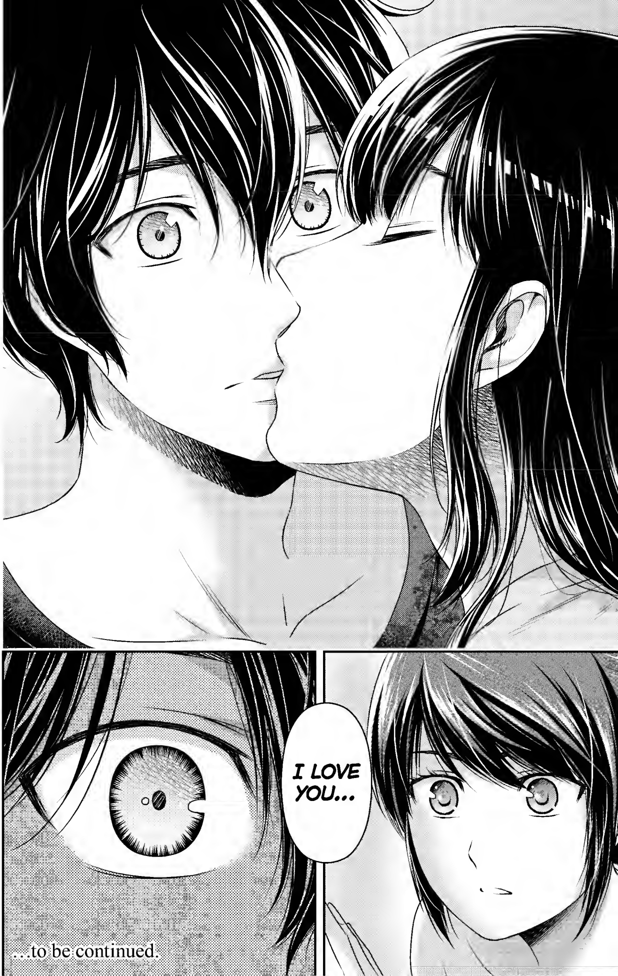

OKAY, IT'S READY.
GIVE ME YOUR PLATE.
M'KAY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, RUI?
ABOUT...
...PROSTITUTION AND STUFF.
MMM.
AS A PROFESSION?
I DON'T FEEL STRONGLY ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.
BUT,
RIGHT NOW, I CAN'T THINK OF DOING STUFF LIKE THAT...
...WITH ANYONE BUT THE ONE I LOVE.
きゅ BA
うぅうん DUM
I LOVE YOU, RUI!
FWAP
I KNOW.
WANNA HOP IN THE SHOWER TOGETHER AFTER WE EAT?
NO, *YOU* CLEAN UP THE DISHES WHILE *I* TAKE A SHOWER, PLEASE.


キュッ SQUEAK
カコ SHK
カコ SHK
シャー SH
アS
アS
アS
シャア HISS
ア…


FIDG そわ
FIDG そわ
FIDG そわ
SIGH ...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SHE'S STAYED OVER SINCE I MOVED IN.
WE'VE ALREADY BEEN TOGETHER FOR HALF A YEAR,
SO WHY DOES MY HEART STILL POUND LIKE WHEN WE FIRST STARTED GOING OUT?
I CAN'T THINK OF DOING STUFF LIKE THAT ...
...WITH ANYONE BUT THE ONE I LOVE.
SHE'S TOO ADORABLE.
SNIFF
OH, YEAH.
I NEED TO THANK HINA-NEE FOR HER ADVICE, TOO.
I'LL TELL HER HOW THINGS WENT ON LINE.
LEMME DO THAT BEFORE RUI GETS OUT...
AND DONE.
スポッ SWP
DING DONG ピンポーン
HUH? WHO COULD THAT BE?
IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO BE A DELIVERY ...
DON'T TELL ME IT'S THE GUY NEXT DOOR AGAIN...
YES?
ガチャ CHACK


NATSUO-KUUUN!
FWIP
HIII!
WHOA!
FWUMP
HM?
HUH? WHA-
HI- HINA-NEE?!
SORRY!
IT'S ME! ♥
SHE'S HAMMERED!

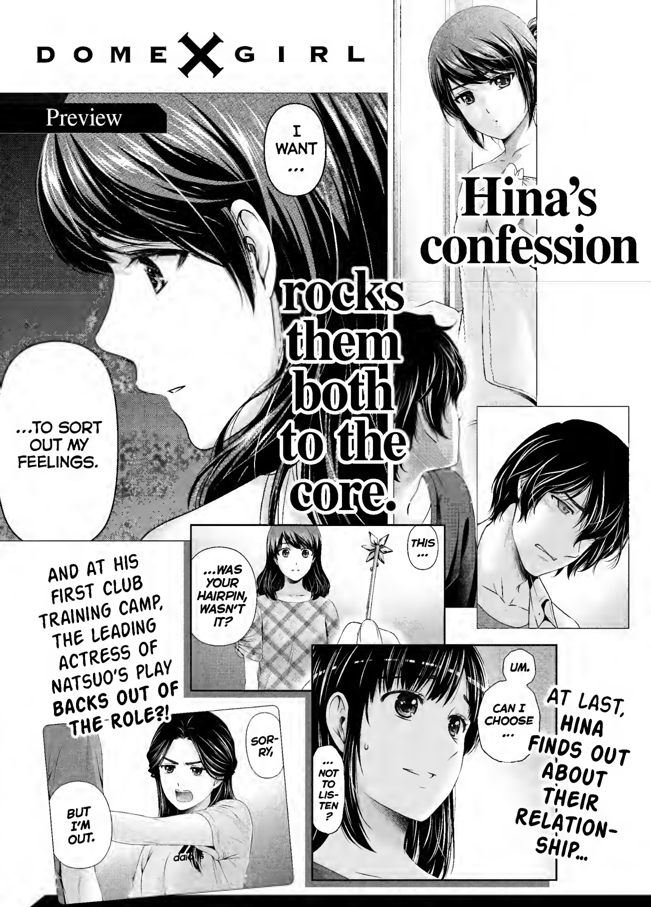

OH, YEAH...
THEY'RE EVEN GOING TO THROW ME A WELCOMING PARTY.
THAT MUST'VE BEEN TODAY!
WHAT ?!
WHAT'S HINA-NEE DOING HERE?!
YOU DRANK WAY TOO MUCH!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
I CAME ...
...BECAUSE I REEEEALLY ...
WANTED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
THE FOOD AND DRINKS AT THE PARTY WERE SOOOO GOOD!
JUDGING BY HOW DRUNK YOU ARE ...
I BET THEY WERE.
ALSO. GUESS WHAT, NATSUO-KUN.
WHAT ?
NATSUO-KUN.
NATSUO-KUN...



...to be continued.

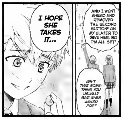
DOME X GIRL

Preview


Hina's confession
rocks them both to the core.
I WANT …
…TO SORT OUT MY FEELINGS.
THIS …
…WAS YOUR HAIRPIN, WASN'T IT?
AND AT HIS FIRST CLUB TRAINING CAMP, THE LEADING ACTRESS OF NATSUO'S PLAY BACKS OUT OF THE ROLE?!
SOR-RY,
BUT I'M OUT.
AT LAST, HINA FINDS OUT ABOUT THEIR RELATION-SHIP…
UM.
CAN I CHOOSE …
… NOT TO LIS-TEN ?

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 16!

TRANSLATION NOTES


AND I WENT AHEAD AND REMOVED THE SECOND BUTTON* ON MY BLAZER TO GIVE HER, SO I'M ALL SET!
ISN'T THAT SOMETHING YOU USUALLY GIVE WHEN ASKED FOR?
I HOPE SHE TAKES IT...

SECOND UNIFORM BUTTON, PAGE 25

In Japan, when boys graduate from middle and high school, it's traditional for them to give the second button of their uniform jacket to the girl they like in place of a confession. There are many theories about the origin of this custom, a common one being that the second button is the one closest to the heart and contains all of the feelings that have built up over their three years of school. It's also common for girls to confess by asking the boy they like for their button.

Domestic Girlfriend 15

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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